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News and Notes

A Monthly Paper printed for the private use of the
Members of the Missionaries to Muslims League.

Series XIII

No. 12

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1st December = 14th Jumada'l-Ula (5th mo.), 1344, A.H.

Revolutionary Thought and Action in Turkey.

IF further proof be needed of the 'revolution' now taking place in the Muslim world it will be found in the following reports of current events in Turkey.

I. THE PRAYER-LANGUAGE.

A Constantinople correspondent to a Muslim newspaper published in Calcutta, sends this interesting letter, dated October 6th.

'The prayer of the Muslims of to-day has nearly degenerated to the degree of a mere formality, during which Arabic verses of the Quran are repeated without the least heed being paid to their meaning. That is the general tendency; I am not speaking of the educated few who know Arabic. The result is that no advantage is derived by the faithful from the teachings contained in those verses. In Turkey there is a movement on foot that the disease of such a mimicry or parrot-like recital of the Quran should be cured somehow. But as it will take a very long time to teach Arabic to the general laity, it is better to say the prayers in Turkish, *i.e.* to recite the Turkish translation of the Quranic and other verses. Recently an article appeared in a local daily here (the "Vakit") advocating such a change. In support of the proposal the writer quoted Imam Abu Hanifa and the personal opinion of another non-Turk theologian, at present living in Stamboul (on the Bosphorus) as a political refugee, who proved with the help of the Quranic text, the necessity of such change in the case of a man who does not know Arabic. Two kinds of objections can be raised against such a change. Some people allege that the present Turkish Government are encouraging such changes in order to weaken the religious solidarity of the Muslims. This is altogether absurd, for firstly, Imam Abu Hanifa, the greatest authority on theology amongst the Hanifis

advocated it, and, secondly, the non-Turk theologian advocates it now, who by his personal experience in his native country knows how injurious this parrot-like prayer is. *The Turkish Government has nothing to do with it.* The second objection raised against the change is that it will weaken another tie, the tie of a common prayer-language which binds the Muslims of the world. This is really an objection worthy of serious consideration. The non-Turk theologian, referred to above, is conscious of this danger but he retorts, "Is there really a solidarity existing between Muslims of the world? Can any one who does not want to deceive himself, say without a pang of conscience that such a solidarity exists? If it does not exist, then why sacrifice the real individual progress of a Muslim for the sake of an imaginary solidarity?" Then he adds:—"Let each Muslim understand the Quran and his prayer, and he himself will begin to strengthen these weakened ties of solidarity."

2. NEW TURKISH LAW CODE TO ABOLISH POLYGAMY.

With reforms in the realm of religious practice it is intended to make big changes in social life also, as the attached Associated Press message indicates:—

'A modern legal code, designed to sweep away the old laws based on the Koran, has been completed by a commission of experts, and will be placed before the Grand National Assembly at Angora.

Under the code, polygamy is completely abolished; civil marriages only are legal and the right of inheritance by will is adopted. The code also gives great freedom to the press. Severe penalties are enumerated for actions against the state, be they attacks caused by reaction, fanaticism or foreign intrigue. *Dated, Constantinople Sept 16th.*

3. THE TURK'S FIRST STATUE.

We are tempted to add first one more item to show how far and how fast Turkey is moving:

'In consenting to the erection of a "Statue of Liberty" with himself as the principal figure, the Turkish President, MUSTAPHA KEMAL PASHA, makes another departure from Turkish custom and tradition as radical as his overthrow of the Sultanate and Caliphate and his abrogation of Mohammedanism as a State religion. Since the conquest of Constantinople by MOHAMMED II. in the middle of the fifteenth century, the parks and streets of Turkey have been as free of statuary as the Turkish primeval forests; Turkey's Government buildings have never known portrait or effigy of public men or officials, and mosques and fountains have ever been without lines which might suggest a resemblance to forms of living beings. This was in accord with the will of the Prophet, as the wise men of Islam interpreted it through the Koran.

MOHAMMED inveighed against statuary and pictures of living things as a part of his war on the idols and images of his pagan neigh-

hours in Arabia, upon whom he forced his own religion. He may not have intended to make of it a tenet of the Muslim faith, but his successors and exponents of his teachings, accepting here, as in most other cases, a literal interpretation of the Koran, maintained it for centuries as a doctrine of Mohammedanism. Thus in the construction of mosques, schools and tombs, upon which the skill and art of Muslim architects were mostly expended, no builder or patron would dare to depart from this rule of the church.

When the great mosques of Turkey—the green mosque at Brusa, the mosque of SULTAN SELIM II. at Adrianople, and the superb buildings whose domes and minarets rise on the heights of Stamboul—are studied, they show the limitations which were forced upon their decorators by strict adherence to the laws of their religion. The interiors of these structures were often gorgeous bits of color, but the drawings were inscriptions and texts worked out by bringing to their fullest value every turn and angle of the Arabic characters. Here was an art in which the Muslim calligraphists excelled all other writers. The best of these works are still preserved and hang on the walls of Turkish homes in the place of paintings, and reproductions of them have been used throughout the Muslim world.

“The Moslem World in Revolution.”

BY the Rev. W. Wilson Cash, D.S.O., O.B.E., formerly Assistant Principal Chaplain to the Egyptian Expeditionary Force, and now Secretary of the C.M.S. in London: published for all the leading Missionary Societies of Great Britain, by Edinburgh House, 2 Eaton Gate, London, S. W. I. In stiff paper covers. 170 p.p. Price 2s.

* * * * *

Bishop Gwynne, of Egypt and the Sudan, in a kindly ‘Foreword’ speeds this little book on its way. Of the author he says, “He is one of the few men able from practical experience in the Moslem world to write on this subject.” Service with the troops gave him “an excellent opportunity of seeing the effect of the war on the Moslem population” over a wide area in the Near East.

One dominant purpose which the author, who was at the Jerusalem Conference, has in view is “to bring home to our Churches the urgent need for advance in missionary enterprise amongst Moslems in this day of opportunity.” He covers a wide field, and where he has not first-hand knowledge of conditions in outlying countries he acknowledges his indebtedness to missionaries resident in those areas. He deals with the new influences, and the consequent ferment, in Moslem countries. In one chapter he indicates what Moslems of to-day are reading; in another he shows how the spirit of the new age is affecting women. One section deals with the reform movements

in India. Finally he puts the case as strongly as possible in an insistent appeal entitled, 'The new opportunity of the Church.' From this closing chapter we venture to make two quotations: "This upheaval is a vast effort on the part of Moslems to keep abreast of modern civilization. Islam is on the verge of a new area." And this—"The soul of a great people is aroused, and for its possession there contends the anarchy of Russia, the materialism of the West, and the life-giving message of Christianity."

The book is written in attractive style and illumined by apt and graphic incidents taken direct from the field reviewed. It is a narrative well-calculated to inspire the youth of our churches at home with a new vision of the possibilities of personal service for Christ among Moslems.

"The Best Friend"

**The Story of the Life of Jesus the Messiah
in simple English for Muhammadan Readers.**

IN March 1920, "News and Notes" contained a brief plea (by the present writer) for the preparation of a "Life of Jesus" that should be specially suited to Muhammadan readers. After setting out some of the difficulties experienced by the ordinary Muhammadan when he handles a Bengali Gospel, the article in question suggested that the time had come for the issue of a "Life of Jesus" that would open up to Muslims the treasures of our Message in a more accessible and attractive way. This "Life" was to be "comprehensive without being complex." It was to "combine liberty of paraphrase with loyalty in translation and with homeliness of vocabulary." It was to be "brief enough not to weary, but long enough to leave a distinct and coherent impression on the mind."

The Secretary of our League, the Rev. L. Bevan Jones, was chiefly responsible for the suggestion. His experience gained in dealing with Muhammadans had brought him, as well as others, to the conviction that something drastic must be done. He began to dream and to plan for this new version of the Story of Jesus. The results of his labours are to be seen in the little book in English issued in attractive form by the Christian Literature Society for India, and bearing the title, "The Best Friend." Within the limit of 67 pages all the outstanding and specially relevant incidents and teachings of the Gospel story have been embodied. In the illustrated edition there are several fine reproductions of Copping's Gospel pictures. The price—two annas without illustrations, and four annas illustrated—will ensure good value to the purchaser, while our colporteurs and preachers should find it a "good seller" in the best sense of the term.

We welcome this new venture. We know something of the difficulties that had to be overcome before this Story took on its final form. Always an eye had to be kept on the Muhammadan reader and on the special points of contact that the Gospel Message might have with him. We feel that what is offered in "The Best Friend" will commend itself as a wise and satisfying selection. It is "comprehensive without being complex." At the same time there has been no undue concession to Muhammadan prejudices in respect to the Person of Christ. That word "Son of God," so abominated by our hearers, has not been suppressed. We have been specially attracted to the stress laid on the teaching of Jesus as "revealing the Heart of God." Christ's references to the "Religious Duties" have been collected and emphasised in such a way that the thoughtful Muhammadan must be impressed. We are glad, too, that so much space has been given to the story of the last scenes in the Master's life and to His triumphant Resurrection.

Mr. Jones has claimed—and in our judgment wisely claimed—the right of paraphrase, and has had recourse to a certain "homeliness of vocabulary." There will be some who, recalling the familiar phrases of our Authorised Version, will feel that too much has been conceded. But the non-Christian reader will come to the text without any such bias, and when the chief aim has been to make him understand what he reads, it will suffice that the words he reads should interpret to him the mind and heart of Christ. Certain it is that no one who takes this book in hand will lose his way in a genealogical maze, or be perplexed by references to unexplained customs and undefined sects of the Jews. The Story goes right forward and should carry the reader along in the grasp of an intelligent interest.

This too may be said—that the book will have its appeal also to the thousands who, while not followers of the Prophet, have some desire to know more about Jesus.

Here then is a little book worthy the careful attention of every missionary to Muslims. It should meet a long-felt need. It should make Jesus more intelligible and more familiar to all who read. It should reveal His greatness and His tenderness. It should commend Him indeed as "The Best Friend."

Jesus chose His disciples that "He might send them forth to preach." We join with Mr. Jones in the hope and prayer that this book, the offering of a loyal servant to his Master, may be accepted of Him and sent forth to preach—first in our mother tongue, and then in the vernaculars of India and beyond. Our vision is quickened when we know that already missionaries in Egypt and Algiers are asking for copies. As a first edition ten thousand copies have been printed. Surely our "Missionaries to Muslims League" can guarantee the speedy circulation of these Messengers for Christ.

Mymensingh, Bengal.

HEDLEY SUTTON.

* * * * *

Under the title of 'The Best Friend', members of the League are introduced to a new Life of Christ written especially to meet the long felt need of workers among Moslems. We are deeply indebted to the Rev. L. Bevan Jones, our Honorary Secretary, for having conceived the idea, and for having brought into being, as a labour of love, this little volume with its message designed to simplify for the Moslem mind the story and teaching of our Master. Every worker among Moslems has again and again been conscious of the need of a booklet such as this, which would anticipate the Moslem difficulties and try to meet them as far as possible. Mr. Jones has spared no pains to accommodate this new *Storia Christi* to the reader in view, while at the same time keeping the purity of the Gospel narrative intact.

This Life of Christ is written for the High School Student, the young college student, and, in translation, will be easily understood by those of the humbler walks of life. It is not intended for children, as is Miss Padwick's excellent "Life" called *Malik-ul-Muhabba* ; nor is it likely that it will be much appreciated by the learned moulvies or college graduates. The aim is to try to reach the heart of the Moslem masses. In the chapter on "Religious Duties" we are given a clear indication of the method of the author in seeking to secure the interest of the Moslem by treating successively the subjects of the "Creed" or the Great Commandment, "Hear, O Israel," etc. ; "Salat" under the heading, Prayer ; "Roza," where the teaching of Jesus is presented concerning Fasting ; and "Zakat," where His teaching concerning "Almsgiving" is presented.

The English edition is a booklet of 67 pages of the size of the "Murdoch" series printed in excellent style by the C. L. S., Madras, and is of two kinds: one with six colored illustrations by Harold Copping (specially printed for the C. L. S.) selling at four annas a copy, and the other, without illustrations, at two annas a copy. To those working in the Urdu and Bengali areas it will be of interest to know that arrangements are being made to have this new "Life" translated at once and published as soon as possible. It is also hoped that members of the League in China, Malayasia, Persia, and Arabic-speaking countries will secure copies of this valuable contribution to Christian literature for Moslems, and work to arrange for its translation into the languages of their respective countries. A piece of literature of this sort is too valuable to be kept secluded in one country, and should become common currency throughout the Moslem world as a real evangelising agency.

The glorious aim of the book is to communi-ate Life Eternal, and one can but confidently hope that for years to come through reading its pages many a Moslem will find Life Eternal in coming to know the one true God and Jesus Christ whom He has sent.

Moradabad, North India.

———MURRAY T. TITUS.

(The C.L.S. Post Box 501, Madras, offer a discount of 25 per cent to purchasers, and an extra 5 per cent to those ordering 250 copies. Use it this year as a Christmas gift for your Muslim friends. A few copies in art paper covers with gilt title may be had of Mr. Bevan Jones, Dacca, at 6½ as. post free.)

The Study of Arabic

WE understand that a number of missionaries in India would like to take up the study of Arabic in their spare time, though they are a little uncertain as to how to go about it. The very best way, in our opinion, is to use "Arabic Simplified", which is a volume of some 500 pages, comprising graded lessons on an entirely new system compiled by a master of Arabic, Mr. Arthur Upson, of the Nile Mission Press, Cairo. The course leads one up to Arabic of the standard required for the London University Matriculation. It is suggested that intending students could work at these lessons, send in their work to Professor John Subhan, B.A., Director of Arabic Studies at the Bareilly Seminary, Bareilly, U.P., and that he should return them corrected with as little delay as possible. Both Mr. Upson of Cairo and Prof. Subhan cordially agree with this suggestion. Mr. Upson writes to tell us that he is prepared to send us a supply of his book, as required, at a charge of Two Pounds, Egyptian (roughly £2 sterling), with a special discount of 25 per cent to missionaries. Will those desiring a copy of "Arabic Simplified" place their orders as early as possible with the Secretary of the League?

The Moslem World for October, 1925.

The Leading Magazine in English on the Mohammedan World

THE October number of THE MOSLEM WORLD has as its leading article an important contribution by Professor D. S. Margoliouth, Litt. D., of Oxford, on the "Textual Variations of the Koran," exposing a popular fallacy that the Koran text is more accurate than that of the Old and New Testaments.

The editor gives the result of his recent investigations on Islam in South Africa and in a brief article also describes "Two Moslem Catechisms" published at Cape Town.

The present condition of "Government and Religious Education in the Dutch East Indies" is summarized by Samuel MacF. Anderson, and the effect of such western education in producing "Modern Types of Moslem Thought" by Mr. S. A. Morrison, of Cairo.

Two articles of more than special interest relate to the Near East: "Baghdad To-day" by Dr. Calvin K. Staudt and the description of a sect of "Non-Conformist Moslems in Albania," by Margaret Hasluck.

Medical missions find place in this number in the description of a new Moslem Hospital in Kansu, China, and an account of the evangelistic work carried on in one of the largest hospitals of Africa, by one of the staff, Dr. J. E. Bateman, of Cairo.

The intellectual revival in Islam has resulted in the publication of two new magazines in China, one by a Japanese editor; these are described by Mr. Isaac Mason, of Shanghai.

In looking over the Index for the year, found in this number, one is surprised to see the width of range covered in the "Current Topics" and the increasing literature on Islam. During the past year no less than one hundred and eighty-two volumes have been reviewed. The large place given to Islamic problems in current periodicals is evident from the invaluable survey in every issue which is prepared by Miss Hollis W. Hering, of the Missionary Research Library, New York City.

Published by the Missionary Review Publishing Company.

156 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

50 c. a copy

\$2.00 a year.

(Orders in India may be sent to the Agents. The Associated Press, 5 Russell St. Calcutta; Price Rs. 6-4-0.)

Notes

Miss Trotter's Parables in Urdu.—Members in India will be glad to know that some of Miss Trotter's delightful parables are now being translated into Urdu. They will be published by the P.R.B.S. Lahore. We hope to notify our readers as soon as they are available.

* * * * *

Set apart for work among Muslims in China.—Mr. Isaac Mason, our representative in Shanghai, asks us to enrol a new member, Mr. Carter D. Holton of Hochow, and says, "I am glad to hear that this man is to be set apart for work among Muslims; he lives in the thick of them in the province of Kansu."

* * * * *

The late Rev. Aziz-ud-Din, formerly of the C.M.S. Mission, Peshawar.—Rev. William Sutherland has sent us this note about the life and work of this brother.

"Rev. Aziz-ud-Din was the first convert from the Pathans to receive Ordination. He was a man who knew his Bible as few men, even Missionaries, know it. He knew the Koran and the traditions and customs of Islam, and was able to deal with men in a most tactful way, winning many learned Mohammedans to love him and to study the Christian Scriptures with a new and sincere interest. His departure is a loss to his Associates and will leave a great space in the ranks of the soldiers of Christ."

* * * * *

A member retiring in Australia, writes.—"I shall be glad to continue my membership in the M. M. League and hope I shall have opportunities in Australia for work among some of the Indian Moslems found there."

Important Notices.

a. 1926 SUBSCRIPTIONS PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

The experience gained in recent years leads us to adopt the method of collecting Members' Annual Subscriptions (within the Indian Postal area) by the V.P.P. system at the time of the issue of the January number. We hereby notify members that this will be done with our next issue.

Will any who do not wish to receive the paper in 1926 kindly send us notification before Christmas? We would remind members again to notify the Secretary of any change, or contemplated change of address.

b. PROPOSED ALL-INDIA SURVEY

Steps are being taken, under the auspices of the N. C. C. India, to make as complete a Survey as possible of (1) the strength and activities of Moslims, and (2) the extent and nature of the efforts of Christian Missions to evangelize them. The various Provincial Councils are being asked to assist in collecting the required information. Rev. H. J. Lane Smith and the Secretary of the League, who have been appointed to conduct the Survey, would bespeak the cordial assistance of League members scattered throughout India.

New Members.

68.	Rev. John C. Blair	I. P. Miss.	Deesa Camp, India
72.	Prof. John A. Subhan	Theol. Inst.	Bareilly, U. P.
98.	Miss B. M. Clegg	Wes. Miss.	Kalmunai, Ceylon
123.	Rev. C. D. Holton	C & M. A. Miss.	Hochow, Kansu, China
178.	Miss Morris	C.M.S.	Jaffa, Palestine
325.	Rev. Claude L. Pickens,	Missionary- designate	for China

(Our full strength is now 537 members)

Death of a Member.

We record with deep regret the death of our brother Rev. Aziz-ud-Din of the C.M.S. Campbellpur, Panjab, which took place on 12th September.

The annual subscription to the League is only Rs. 2-0-0 (English 3s.). The Secretary will be glad to send spare copies of this issue to addresses mentioned by members, with a view to securing new subscribers. News and requests for prayer will always be welcome and should be sent early in the month to the Hon. Secretary:—

Rev. L. Bevan Jones.

Baptist Mission.

Dacca, Bengal, India.



Edited and published by Rev. L. Bevan Jones, Dacca, Bengal, and printed at the Orissa Mission Press, Cuttack, by S. F. Robinson, Superintendent.

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