

Confidential.

Missionaries to Muslims League.

NEWS AND NOTES, SERIES II, No. 9. January 1914.

A NEW YEAR GREETING

from

**The Lord Bishop of Calcutta, Metropolitan of
India and Ceylon.**

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

The opportunity has been kindly offered to me of sending a New Year's Message to your League, and I cannot forbear availing myself of it. I have some diffidence in doing so, for I can scarcely claim now to be in the rank of your active workers, and probably you would receive more stimulus and help from one who is; but work amongst Muhammadans occupied so much of my time in my more directly Missionary days, and the cause is still so near to my heart, and has so regular a place in my prayers, that I value the opportunity of renewing in this way direct connection with it.

And the season at which I write may well supply its own stimulus, as we approach our annual commemoration of our Blessed Lord's Incarnation, with all its inexhaustible meanings and points of bearing on our life and work.

There is a saying of Irenaeus which Bishop Westcott, our great Cambridge teacher, was never tired of quoting—

“The Vision of God is the transfiguration of the world;

“Communion with God is the inspiration of life.”

It always seems to me that it is a little easier to open one's heart and mind to the full significance of such a truth at the recurrence of our great Christian Festivals than at most other times, and so I pray that it may have been given to the members of the League to do this, in some true degree, in the present instance, and thus to be able to step out into the New Year with a fresh sense of the conquering might and the all-prevailing love of our God.

The motto of our Prayer Cycle for this day on which I am writing is, “This is the victory which overcometh (R.V. hath overcome) the world—even our faith”, and surely it is in proportion as this conviction takes possession of our hearts and lives, and colours our entire outlook, that we can face the tremendous task we have set before ourselves with quiet courage and confident hope.

Let us remember that He, our Blessed Lord, *has* overcome the world, and is merely, in His infinite mercy and goodness, using us to gather in the

spoils and thus complete the work; let us remember too that the work is none of ours, but that the almighty Power and Wisdom and Love of God are pledged to its accomplishment, for

“God is working His purpose out as year succeeds to year,
 God is working His purpose out and the time is drawing near;
 Nearer and nearer draws the time, the time that shall surely be,
 When the earth shall be filled with the glory of God as the waters
 cover the sea”;

and surely then despondency or slackness will be impossible, and we shall move with that assurance of Victory which does so much to ensure its own realization.

Of the magnificence of the opportunities at present confronting the Church of Christ, I will not write, for it is a thought very familiar to us at present. Yet it is well that the younger workers, more especially, should realize how absolutely different in all ways the position and the possibilities now are, as compared with those when the older workers amongst us came out, 30 or 40 years ago, that they may understand the greatness of the privilege which is given them in being called to live and work in these days. As we know, on every side doors which were shut, bolted and barred in that earlier time, are now lying wide open to our entrance, while in not a few cases actual pressure is put upon us to enter in when alas! our own forces do not permit of our responding.

Here it is that we have reason for sadness, I mean in the failure of the Church, as a whole, to realize her day of visitation, her day of magnificent opportunity and of corresponding responsibility, and to rise to meet it in any adequate way. It would indeed be faithless and wrong not to recognize even here how great the advance has been in recent years, how unmistakably the Spirit of God is at work amongst us and for what much larger things He is, we are sure, preparing.

But as yet the heart, the imagination, the mind of the Church as a whole have been wofully little touched and the response is lamentably inadequate.

And this surely gives us the direction in which effort is most of all needed, prayer most of all urgent. We must pray that on the Church itself there should be a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit, so that there may come a great revival and renewal of her life, a great uplift of her whole spiritual level and power. We need, do we not, to pray—and that most earnestly—that the number should be multiplied mightily of those whose eyes are indeed open to the great spiritual realities, who do seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, whose affections are set on things above, not on things on the earth, whose lives are, in some true degree, hid with Christ in God and who know, by their own glad and constant experience, how true it is that we “can do all things in Him that strengtheneth us.”

And especially we need to pray that the spirit of grace and *supplication* may be granted in ever-increasing measure, so that the daily volume of ascending prayer may be immensely increased—of prayer offered in the power of the Holy Spirit, in conscious union with that ceaseless Intercession of our great High Priest, which is the only ground of its acceptance and secret of its power, of prayer earnest, persevering, methodical—and especially of prayer with that quality of faith which gives it such peculiar, prevailing power.

To such prayer as this let us, at this commencement of a New Year, give ourselves with renewed devotion and determination; so shall we best take our part in winning Muslims to Christ and hastening the establishment of His Kingdom in this land.

Lord, what a change within us one short hour,
 Spent in Thy Presence, will prevail to make;—
 What heavy burdens from our bosoms take,
 What parched grounds refresh, as with a shower!
 We kneel! and all round us seems to lower;
 We rise! and all, the distant and the near,—
 Stands forth in sunny outline, brave and clear!
 We kneel, how weak! We rise, how full of power!
 Why therefore should we do ourselves this wrong
 Or others—that we are not always strong,
 That we are ever overborne with care,
 That we should ever weak or heartless be,
 Anxious or troubled, when with us is Prayer,—
 And Joy and Strength and Courage are with Thee!

PRAISE AND PRAYER.

“ When you're weary of the fight,
 And are heartsore,
 You would find your foes less strong,
 And the fight would seem less long,
 If you prayed more.”

Praise God for—

- (1) The mercies of the past year.
- (2) The signs in Bengal that Muhammadans are now showing some eagerness to know the truth concerning Christ.

Pray for—

- (1) The many enquirers, that when they come to the moment of the great decision they may be given boldness.
- (2) A revival among the Christians of Bengal that will stir the Muhammadans and help them to understand that in Christ alone are life, spirituality and power.

Lahore: You might be interested to know that last week we had an application for admission to my hostel from the son of Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani; but all things considered we felt that he would hardly be a man whom we could hope to influence for Christianity under the conditions existing here and considering the prejudices and predispositions with which he would be naturally burdened. I was therefore compelled, in certain ways regretfully, to refuse his application. Of the thirty odd Muhammadans in our hostel seven are Qadianis. I should like the prayers of the League for all these Muhammadans, for the most part straight-forward, clean-minded, promising youths, that their contact with Christianity in this Young Men's Christian Association Hostel this winter may be fruitful of results for the Kingdom.

H. A. WALTER.

Brahmanbaria, Bengal: During my absence from home last month, a young Muhammadan of education and good family came here from an adjoining district for baptism. He decided to go to a town near here and await my arrival. He was given a letter of introduction to a Christian there. Upon arriving at the railway-station he was surprised to find his cousin awaiting him, who forcibly compelled him to return home. "Now," he writes to my assistant, "I am watched night and day. Two or three *lathials* (men who are experts in the use of sticks and clubs) are kept before and behind me; not for a moment will they leave me by myself. The Bengali book, called "The Sermon on the Mount," I have been able to retain with great difficulty and sometimes read it with great profit. Write to me sometimes, that I may receive courage and cheer. I request your prayers and the prayers of the Church."

We know nothing more concerning the trouble this young man is in. His people must have known his intention. All we can do is to imagine, sympathize and pray.

J. T.

Kasur, Panjab: On November 9th a convert from Islam, who is now a teacher in this district, took our service. He spoke of the influences now touching Muhammadans. We had much prayer for Muslims.

A. S. A.

Benares: From the October No. of the *Jewish Missionary Intelligence*, in a letter from Safed in Palestine—"A Muslim woman said after she had been in hospital: Cast thy bread upon the waters, for thou shalt find it after many days." Is not that encouraging?

W. HOOPER.

Rangoon, Burma: We have a number of Muslim students in the Baptist College here, and we are all interested in them. We cannot report any conversions as yet, but I desire the prayers of God's people for the institution and for my colleagues as well as myself. Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong are meeting with considerable encouragement in Muslim work, especially in Rangoon, but also in Moulmein. At present the Rev. E. N. Armstrong is attached to the College here, but has also the oversight of Urdu work and is pastor of the Urdu church.

J. F. S.

Central Celebes: We praise God for the news contained in the *Malaysia Message*, that a remarkable movement towards Christianity is taking place in Balantak among people who have not yet come under the influence of Islam. "Within fourteen days, 1,800 persons have joined our congregations. The Muhammadans on the coast are trying to carry on their propaganda even by baptizing the people."

Fiji, South Seas: The Rev. L. Nunn of the Australian Methodist Mission, who has been working at Azamgarh, U.P., is to be transferred to the Fiji Hindustani Mission for mission work amongst the Hindu and Muslim coolies of that place. He writes, "I shall be very glad to continue in membership as a missionary to Muslims in Fiji and will from time to time try and write an item for the *News and Notes*. I expect to leave India for Fiji in January, commencing my work there on the 1st April."

May our prayers follow our brother and be a strength to him.

China: We have received a sheaf of printed circulars from Mr. F. H. Rhodes, the representative of our League in China. The Circulars are full of interest and zeal for the evangelization of the Chinese Muslims. Many letters from workers in various parts of the vast empire are given. We can give but a few extracts.

An experienced missionary in Central China says, "I am more than ever convinced that the fulness of time has come for the Muhammadan people." *Chihli:* "The Muslim population here is a large one; the Muhammadans are friendly, but difficult of approach on the subject of religion. I hope there may be an opportunity for aggressive work among them." *Shantung:* "Many thanks for the Testimony tracts for Muslims. Our hospital is in a large Muhammadan quarter, and we are only too grateful for such literature." *Honan:* "The Muhammadans here appreciate and read them (Arabic tracts) willingly, and pass them on to others in this and other Provinces." *Szechwan:* "Muslims have been attending our street chapel in numbers, and I believe some have heard to some purpose. They are now mixing with the Chinese in a way they have never done before; many of them seem to be expecting some new religious movement; they think it will be the unification of all religions in Christ." *Yunnan:* "You will be interested to know that there is a young Muslim here who is much interested in Christianity, and is, I believe, a Christian. There are also several Muhammadans in one village who now appear interested in the Gospel." *Anhui:* "In company with an evangelist I visited one of the mosques. We were politely received, and tea offered. When I produced some of the Arabic literature, they took up the books, looked at them, and one said:—'We do not believe the doctrine of these books; the teaching does not agree with what we believe to be right.' We told them in a few words what was to be gained by trusting in the Lord Jesus, and asked them to read the books. We have found these men to be very bitter in argument; only the Spirit of the Living God can convict of sin"..... "We hear that the Muhammadans were very upset to hear of one who had become a Christian. Several came together to discuss the matter, and two were appointed to go as delegates to meet with other Muhammadans to see what could be done." *Shensi:* "You will be glad to hear that a missionary has come out specially to take up work among the Muhammadans." *Shansi:* "I gave a selection of Arabic booklets to a Christian here, and asked him to take them to the old Mullah in the mosque: he looks a thoughtful, sad, old gentleman. Thanks for the tracts in Chinese. I have distributed them to Muslim business men. The Muslim women cannot read, alas! and it is not easy to gain an entrance to their homes."

From these short quotations we may understand something of the difficulties of the work amongst the Muhammadans of China. Mr. Rhodes, in one of the circulars, refers to one tract as follows:—"The importance of this tract—probably the first of its kind written by a Chinese convert from Islam—will be recognized at a glance."

Cairo: Dr. Zwemer writes that he is visiting America to speak at Conferences in connexion with the Student Volunteer, World's Sunday School and other movements. He expected to arrive in New York last month and be in the States until February 20th. He desires our prayers as he advocates the cause of missions to Muslims.



THE CENSUS OF INDIA, 1911.

New Particulars concerning Muslims.

2. MADRAS.

The Musalman population of Madras Presidency	...	2,764,467
Mysore	...	314,494
Total	...	3,078,961

Of these the language divisions are (1) Hindustāni 1,289,558
 (2) Malayālam 1,032,757 (=Māppillas).
 (3) Tamil 685,034 (=Labbais).
 (4) Telugu 71,612 (=Dādēkulas).

The rate of increase of the Musalmans has been 11 per cent (amongst the Mappillas 14 per cent) during the decade 1901-1911 A.D., while that of Indian Christians has been 17 per cent, and of Hindus 8 per cent.

Musalman are to be found in all the large towns, but especially in Madras City (59,169) and Bangalore (33,373).

In Mission Schools there are at least 1,436 boys and 1,077 girls.

(Note.—Travancore and Hyderabad are not included in the above statistics, as I have no record of their census.)

The Māppillas and Dādēkulas belong to the Shāfi'i Sect, this proving Arabic descent through their fathers, while these original Arabic settlers married Indian women. I also think some sections of the Labbais are Shāfi'i, while the rest and all Musalmans of Afghān, etc. descent, are Hanafīs. Mappillas and Labbais use Arabic character in their Malayalam and Tamil books.

M. G. G.

THE MUHAMMADAN YEAR.

The important festival in the Muslim world during January is the *Akhir-i-t'haburs-i-Shambah*, which always takes place on the last Wednesday of the Arabic month Safar. This year it falls on January 23rd.

Why observed: During Muhammad's last illness there was a break when he felt well enough to perform the legal bathing. It was a glad day for his devoted followers who spent it in thanksgiving and feasting. But the recovery was only temporary, for the Prophet died on the twelfth day of the next month. The Muhammadans have commemorated the event ever since. The recital of certain Suras of the Quran an extra number of times on this day will ensure God's protection, the Muslim thinks, from every kind of trouble and danger throughout the following year.

NOTES.

Last year Dr. Zwemer gave us a heartening message for the New Year. This year we are favoured with a loving and sympathetic greeting from the

Metropolitan. We will read it not once but several times for the inspirational help it is sure to bring. Dr. Jeffrey in his message refers to our Prayer Cycle for missions to Muslims in India, of which he says, in another letter, "I use the Prayer Cycle daily, and this keeps me in touch with the great work of evangelizing the Muslims."



It was the strong conviction of those present at the Lucknow Conference that the Christian workers arrayed against Islam must be a united force. The different Leagues and Societies in Islam are linking up; so must we. To help in drawing our forces together in fellowship, prayer and united service, our League was established for Christian workers among Muslims in India. With the new year we widen our sphere of influence. We have dropped "All India" from our title, and in future will welcome workers among Muslims everywhere to unite with us in a great spiritual endeavour for the Muslim world.



The C.I.S. has issued a new edition in English of Dr. Rouse's famous "*Tracts for Muhammadans*." It is a book of 180 pages. We feel that all Missionary probationers should read through these tracts as a guide to a sympathetic method of approach.



The newspapers report that on Sunday, December 21st, a largely attended meeting of Muslims was held in the Calcutta Town Hall to congratulate themselves and others on the success of the Muslim Mission to England. The following resolutions were carried unanimously:—

"That this meeting of the Mussalmans of Calcutta expresses its heartfelt gratitude to Khwaja Kamal-ud-Din, for the personal endeavours he is making in the cause of Islam by representing it in its true light, and thereby removing misconceptions and misunderstandings which unfortunately exist with regard to this religion, and also congratulates him on the promising results he has so far disclosed. (2) That this meeting congratulates Lord Headley on his accepting Islam, especially as he has done so after long and thorough study and personal investigation into its intrinsic merits, and welcomes him into the brotherhood. (3) That this meeting urges upon the Indian Mussalmans, especially the Mussalmans of Calcutta, the necessity of helping Khwaja Kamal-ud-Din in the noble work he has voluntarily undertaken at great personal loss and sacrifice."

Another resolution was passed forming a Committee of twenty-five gentlemen to help the mission in Europe.

The speeches made at this meeting, according to the report in the papers, were anything but optimistic. Regret was expressed that so few "representative and leading Mussalmans" were present. "It was high time," said one speaker, "that the Muslim public should look with contempt and disgust on those so-called self-seeking leaders, who have always within the last fifty years kept themselves aloof from all matters concerning their general welfare The real criterion for leadership did not consist in being appointed a member either of the Executive Council or of the bench of the High Court, but to live with and work for the community." Another speaker urged the need to set apart two classes of educated men—one to convert Europe and the other to train Muslim youth in India in the prin-

ciples of Islam. "It is deplorable that there is a complete dearth of such theologians."

The conversion of Lord Headley to Islam has now reached the farthest jungle village of Bengal, and our Bengali Christian brethren are being taunted with it; but on the other hand the orthodox are troubled, because Khwaja Kamal-ud-Din is a Qadiani.



Among the cables in the papers we find the following:—"On his Majesty the Sultan of Turkey's behalf, Shaikh Abdul Aziz Shameesh laid the foundation stone of the Medina University with great *eclat* on the 1st Muharrum (November 30th)."



The 1914 Prayer Cycle for Missions to Muslims in India and the Far East is in the press. It will be available shortly. Will members please advise the Secretary as to how many copies they require.



NEW MEMBERS.

116 Rev. B. H. P. Fisher Cawnpore.



Members are requested to help in keeping up the interest by sending to the Secretary requests for prayer and items of news for our League Magazine.

Brahmanbaria,

E. Bengal.

J. TAKLE,

Hon. Sec., M.M. League.

