

Missionaries to Muslims League

News and Notes.

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DECEMBER, 1918

WHEN THE WAR IS OVER!

Dr. J. H. Jowett has recently returned from America to take up an important pastorate in London. In one of his addresses he speaks of when the war is over thus:—"When the war is over, in what direction is our life to move? Old things will have passed away, all things will have become new. But what sort of newness is it to be? Is it to be a new heaven and a new earth, and are the peoples to find a new inheritance and have a new song in their mouths? That will largely depend upon the passionate and sacrificial fidelity of the Christian Church. We have no need of a new Saviour; Jesus Christ is the very fulness of the eternal God, and we are complete in Him. Nor is there any need of a new Gospel. The old Gospel is all-sufficient, if it be vitally believed and convincingly lived by a Church which recognizes no other leader than her Lord. We may have to make some new emphasis, and unfold as never before Christ's conception of the Kingdom of God, and declare His purpose to establish that Kingdom upon the earth. And certainly we shall have to be heralds with more fervent accents, and with a passion which divides its strength with nothing else. But more than ever do I believe that, in the revelation of the holy grace and love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord, we have the vision and the dynamic of a new world, in which old jealousies and old strifes and old meannesses and old wrongs will be transformed into a racial fellowship wherein Christ is all and in all."

HOME-CALL OF THE REV. HOWARD A. WALTER

The following has been received from the Educational Secretary of the Y.M.C.A., Lahore:—"Mr. Walter) had been intending to go to Mesopotamia to give lectures to the troops there for the next two or three months, and had left Lahore for that purpose. But the October climate in Bombay was too much for his weak heart, and he had to come back again to Lahore, to wait for his passports before proceeding to Mesopotamia. He reached Lahore on Monday, October 28th, and came down with influenza on the next day, which almost immediately developed into pneumonia, and at two o'clock on Friday morning, November 1st, he passed over 'to the other side,' as a result of heart failure. While his loss seems irreparable to us, his life has been a

wonderful inspiration; and is a challenge to us to go ahead all the more courageously, and we know that he is not lost but only 'gone before,' and we are very thankful for his example and the privilege of having known him. . . . Mr. Walter was the Honorary Secretary of the 'League,' and also the Editor of *News and Notes*, for at least a year, in 1915-1916, and was very deeply interested in the League, as in everything pertaining to Christian work for Muslims."

We shall recall an article by Mr. Walter in the *July Moslem World*. Dr. Zwemer, the editor of that magazine, thus introduces Mr. Walter:—"Mr. Howard A. Walter, one of the younger missionaries of India, is a student of Islam, engaged in literary work for the Y.M.C.A. His book on the Ahmadiya Sect is in the press, and he is writing a larger work on Islam in India." The article referred to is on "Lahore as a Moslem Centre," and gives a most interesting account of the position of that great city in relation to Islam in India.

"MESOPOTAMIA: THE KEY TO THE FUTURE"

The Rev. Canon Parfit, who had lived many years in Baghdad before the war, has written an instructive booklet with the above title. It deals with the past history and future prospects of government in that land. Speaking of the wholly corrupt and foolish system of Turkish civil administration, he gives the following instance:—"My valuable library was the bane of the Baghdad censor, and an awful grief to my innocent heart when first I wandered abroad. Six hundred precious books were strewn for weeks about the floor of the censor's office and frequently trampled underfoot. The young Jewish interpreter was supposed to read them through and scrawl his name without a capital letter over the front page of every volume before it could be passed. Week by week he came to my house beaming with smiles, expecting a few silver coins, which added considerably to the facility with which he reviewed my scholastic treasures in many hitherto unknown tongues. A brand-new copy of the *Historical Geography of the Holy Land*, with seventy other similar valuable books, were pilfered from me by the Chairman of the Council of Education. In spite of much correspondence, and even an appeal to Constantinople, such dangerous geographical volumes could not possibly be allowed to enter the enlightened city of Baghdad.

"I opened book stores in Mosul and in Baghdad, and sent my agent on a long journey to Beirut that he might purchase stock from the different publishing houses of that great Turkish city. I determined to sell nothing that was not officially permitted or produced in the Turkish empire itself. Hundreds of books, however, were purloined by the censor, and amongst them three dozen copies of *The Arabian Nights Entertainment*, in Arabic, published by the Beirut Press, were ruthlessly destroyed, so the Turkish officials told me; but I saw them later on being sold by my native rivals in the bazar."

J. T.

MOSLEMS IN RUSSIA

Steadfast Resistance to Bolshevism

It is, perhaps, not generally realized, writes a correspondent, who has spent twenty years in Russia, that that country has a large population of Muhammadans. It is to their credit that they have steadfastly refused to accept the Bolshevik preaching. In Indian eyes Russia looms large—a country of tremendous extent with a huge population. Eleven per cent. of Russia's population are Muhammadans—more than eighteen million souls—one-half of whom inhabit Turkestan, these comprising 96 per cent. of the local population. The Turkestan Muhammadans have been Germany's cat's-paw for the past three years. Prior to the revolution, German agents incited them to revolt against the Tsar by a tissue of lies and falsehoods and the promise of German military assistance, which they claimed was being sent *via* Turkey, Mesopotamia and Persia. Needless to say, no German military assistance was forthcoming at the critical moment. And then, when the German Bolsheviks usurped power, the excesses committed by them in Tashkent and Turkestan were indescribable. What is happening there to-day is a matter for conjecture, but as a result of those excesses thousands have been massacred and the country devastated, whole villages, with their inhabitants, churches and schools, having been wiped out.

Practically the same applies to the central Asiatic steppe country, populated by some 5,000,000 Muhammadans. As in the case of Turkestan, they were made Germany's cat's-paw, and now famine is rife amongst them. The sufferings of the survivors may be imagined when I state that months ago they were literally selling their children in order to obtain a little food for themselves and to assure food for their families.

The remaining four million Muhammadans in Russia populate the Orenburg and Volga districts and the Caucasus—particularly Eastern Caucasus. Here conditions are better, thanks to the determined opposition of the Cossacks to the Bolsheviks. But the Volga and Orenburg Muhammadans are already partly in the zone of Bolshevik influence; their lands are being taken from them, their home-grown food supplies forcibly expropriated, and seemingly they must suffer pestilence and famine with the misguided Russians.

That the Volga and Orenburg Muhammadans will offer fight against the forcible expropriation of their lands by the Bolsheviks is certain; nearly one-fifth of their men have fought alongside the Russian army against the Germans, but although many were taken prisoners by Germany and suffered fearful treatment at her hands, a large number have returned from the front determined to fight for their homes. It is difficult to foresee the result, but it is probable that the Volga Muhammadans' lands will be seized, and that the last traces of the former independent Muhammadan kingdom, which there existed at one time, will now be effaced. (Quoted from a newspaper, title unknown.)

NOTES

Muhammadan Education.—The Muhammadan population of British India numbers 57 millions, or 23·4 per cent. of the total population of 244 millions, while the total number of Muhammadan scholars is 1,824,364, or 23·2 per cent. of the total of 7,851,946 scholars in British India. Of the total number of Muhammadan scholars, 6,073 were in colleges, 212,297 in secondary schools, 1,309,845 in primary schools, 65,313 in special schools, and 230,836 in private institutions. The percentages of Muhammadan scholars to the total number of scholars of all creeds in various classes of public institutions being 10·4 in colleges, 17·9 in secondary schools, 22·5 in primary schools, and 45·3 in special schools. These figures clearly indicate that Muhammadans as a class are still backward in secondary and collegiate education, although signs are not wanting to show their growing interest in the matter. (Newspaper cutting.)

The "Record of Christian Work" says:—Dr. Zwemer calls for prayer that, from the thousands of young soldiers who have been serving in the Levant, large numbers may be led into missionary service to Muhammadans. "We have," he said, "to thank God that by His Providence He has brought thousands of the choicest men from New Zealand, Australia, Canada and Great Britain into closest contact with the Near East during the war. They have seen service in Egypt, at the Dardanelles, in Salonica and Mesopotamia. These men, many Christians from universities and colleges, have observed the opportunity for medical, educational and social service. They have come into close touch with Islam and its needs. To them the Near East has spoken for a higher warfare, and they have seen the coming of a Kingdom without frontiers or race barriers. It is for the Church to extend to them the call for reinforcements, and to do it now."

A Chinese Muslim Convert.—"*China's Millions*, the organ of the China Inland Mission, announces that Bishop Cassels has appointed the Rev. S. C. Ku Archdeacon in the Diocese of Szechwan. It is well known that the Mission of the C.I.M. in East Szechwan is a Church of England Mission, and that in the same diocese is the C.M.S. Mission founded by the Rev. J. H. Horsburgh. The C.I.M. began work in the city of Paoning thirty-one years ago, and at that city Archdeacon Ku was born of Muhammadan parents, and a long Muhammadan ancestry. But he was one of the first pupils in the first school opened, and was the first convert from Islam in Paoning. He was ordained deacon in 1904, and presbyter two years later. The writer of the letter in *China's Millions*, Mr. W. H. Aldis, states that he has known Mr. Ku for twenty years, and that his life has been 'an example and an inspiration.' He is a most earnest preacher of the Gospel, and has won many souls to Christ."—Quoted from *The Record* of September 5th.

PRAISE AND PRAYER

“Prayer, if understood as the mere repetition with consciousness of their meaning of words of petition addressed to God may be, as most men think it, a business requiring no great stretch or effort of mind. But in truth when it is such as it ought to be, it is the highest and most sustained energy of which the human mind is capable; and until we have come to know this, each for ourselves, we may be assured that we have never yet prayed as we may and as we ought. Do not, because of the want of sensible fruit, grudge the time given to your prayers; and be liberal of it. As the keeping what is called good company leaves its mark on the manners of a man, so will it powerfully influence the tone of his spiritual life to have been much with God.”—

WM. E. GLADSTONE.

Serious Illness of Dr. Lefroy, President of the League.—

The newspapers of the 18th November contained the news of the serious illness of Dr. Lefroy, Bishop of Calcutta, who is our President. He was stated to be a little better than he had been, but was still very ill. Let us pray for his speedy restoration to health.

Bombay.—Prayer is asked for the work among Muhammadans in Bombay, which is shortly to be opened under new arrangements. The work is to be controlled by a Board in connection with the Diocesan Council, and financed by the C.M.S. and S.P.G. jointly. Both these societies have had work among Muslims for many years, but it has for long been felt that it would be much more effective if co-ordinated. Bombay has about 180,000 Muhammadans of many differing languages and tribes, and the field for evangelistic work among them is practically unlimited.

Lucknow.—The Rev. C. G. Mylrea, who was formerly the C.M.S. Missionary to Muhammadans in Lucknow, has recently accepted a living in England, which presumably means that he is not contemplating returning to India at present. Let us pray that some other may be set apart for Muslim work in this important city.

Dr. Zwemer's Tour.—Very late news has come of an extended tour which Dr. Zwemer has been making in America, and which, at the time of receipt, is nearly completed. But we may pray for God's blessing on the few meetings remaining to be addressed in December, as well as for those that have been addressed during the months of August to November by His servant. Let us ask that he may be kept in health in his “journeyings oft,” and preserved from all perils by land and sea; and particularly that many may be led to respond to the call for service in the great field of Missions to Muslims.

SECRETARY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The "Moslem World."—We wish again to call attention to this most valuable quarterly, which should be read, marked and learned by all who are interested in the Moslem world. Its editor is Dr. S. M. Zwemer, one of the greatest of present-day authorities on this subject, whose burning zeal for the evangelization of Muhammadans everywhere is a source of inspiration to all who hear him, or read his writings. *The Moslem World*, though now published in the U.S.A., may be subscribed for in the East through the following:—Christian Literature Society, P.O. Box No. 501, Park Town, Madras; Miss M. A. Ledward, C.M.S., Ward Place, Colombo; Mr. W. T. Cherry, Methodist Publishing House, Singapore; or The China Mission Book Company, Shanghai. The amount of the subscription is \$1.25, or 1s. 6d., or Rs. 4, per annum post free.

Cycle of Prayer for Muslims in India and the Far East.—

This publication was not issued for 1917 or 1918, but a new issue for 1919 seems now to be called for. The Honorary Secretary of the M.M.L. will be glad if members will send in any special items of information touching the conditions of the Muslims in their districts, which would make the Cycle more useful and interesting to those who will use it. The information should reach him not later, if possible, than the 25th of December.

Advance in Work Among Muslims in India.—A majority of the members of the League Committee decided in favour of requesting the National Missionary Council to appoint a Sub-Committee on Work Among Muslims in India. Accordingly a letter was sent to the Secretary of that body, asking him to bring the matter before the Executive when it meets in Benares in November.

We may pray that, if this is according to the divine will, the N.M.C. may view it favourably, and that it may result in an increase of interest in the work which is so much on the hearts of us all, as members of the M.M. League.

NEW MEMBERS

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|-------|--|------------------|
| 272. | THE RT. REV. THE BISHOP OF LAHORE, | Lahore. |
| 273. | MISS E. C. GEDGE, Missionary Settlement
for University Women, | Girgaon, Bombay. |
| *228. | MISS M. H. G. MATTHEWS, C.E.Z.M.S., | Batala, Panjab. |
| * 39. | REV. NORMAN BENNET, Chaplain, | Benares. |

The Annual Subscription to the League is Rs. 2-8-0 (3s. 6d.). Members are requested to send news and requests for prayer to the Honorary Secretary of the M.M. League, Rev. H. J. Lane Smith, Aurangabad, Deccan. Address, after December 20th, will be C.M.S. House, Girgaon, Bombay, No. 4.

* These numbers were those of members now resigned.

The Challenge of Islam.

Alone of non-Christian faiths
Islam claims to have judged and superseded Christianity.

Islam Affirms :

The Unity of God.

A conception majestic in simplicity
but sterile.

God is aloof, passionless, needing
no-one, loving no-one.

Character is overlooked in
emphasising unity.

The Might of God.

Absolute, autocratic will-power,
acting apart from reason and love.

A greatness that crushes.

Submission to such a God tends to
fatalism.

The Mercy of God.

The spasmodic clemency of a
despot, lenient to sin as well as to
the sinner.

No deep hatred of sin ; no sense
of the cost of forgiveness.

No need for atonement.

The Fact of a Sinless Prophet—Jesus.

Son of Mary.

“ Word of God,” “ Spirit of God,”
who worked miracles, ascended
to Heaven and will come
again.

The Unique Relation to God of a Sinful Prophet—Muhammed.

Final revealer of God to men.

Islam Denies :

The Fatherhood of God

“ Like as a Father pitieth His
children.”

The Holiness of God.

“ Thus saith the High and Lofty One,
Whose Name is Holy,
I dwell
with him that is of a contrite and
humble spirit, to revive the spirit of
the humble.”

The Mystery of the Incarnation.

“ One God, and one Mediator
between God and men,
the man, Christ Jesus.”
“ The Son of God,
who loved me and gave Himself
for me.”

The Fact of the Cross.

“ Christ Crucified,
the Power of God and the Wisdom
of God.”

The Presence of the Holy Spirit.

“ He shall guide you into all Truth.
He shall glorify ME.”

“ Islam defies your King.”

(Cable sent by Cairo Student Volunteers to the 1900 Conference.)

On the gateway of the Church of St. John the Baptist
at Damascus, now a Mosque, still stand the words—

**Thy Kingdom, O Christ,
Is a Kingdom of all Ages.**

A Call to Prayer

“ That they may know Thee
the only true God,
and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent.”

Thy Kingdom Come.

—From Student V.M.U. Publication.

Missionaries to Muslims League

ESTABLISHED 1912

OBJECTS OF THE LEAGUE

To fulfil the vows made at the Lucknow Conference, to pray more and to work more for the evangelization of the Muslim World.

We desire to help:—

- (i) By prayer and mutual sympathy.
- (ii) By stimulating each other through news of encouraging work.
- (iii) By passing on particulars of useful books and tracts for ourselves and for the Muslims among whom we labour.
- (iv) By comparing notes on methods of work.
- (v) By encouraging others to take an interest in this important work.

The League was established primarily for the benefit of those actually engaged in the evangelization of Muslims, but others who are willing to become "praying partners" are also welcomed to membership. The medium of communication is a monthly paper, called *News and Notes*.

The membership fee, including the monthly paper, is Rs. 2-8-0. (English money about 3s. 6d.)

PRESIDENT

~~THE MOST REVEREND THE LORD BISHOP OF CALCUTTA,
METROPOLITAN OF INDIA.~~

Rev. S. M. Wherry, A. D. Ludhiana.

COMMITTEE

Bengal

Miss J. Taylor, Jessore. (*forlond*)
Rev. E. T. Butler, Calcutta. (*forlond*)
Rev. L. Bevan Jones, Dacca.
Rev. W. Goldsack, ~~Khuina~~ *Jessore*.
Rev. J. Takle, Brahmanbaria.

Panjab

Miss F. M. Davidson, Peshawar.
Rev. Dr. E. M. Wherry, Ludhiana.
Rev. Dr. H. D. Griswold,
Saharanpur.
Rev. R. Siraj-ud-Din, Lahore.

United Provinces

Rev. Ahmad Shah, Hamirpur.

Madras

Miss E. M. Potter, Bangalore.
Rev. Canon M. G. Goldsmith,
Madras.
Rev. Canon E. Sell, Madras. (*forlond*)

Western India

Rev. A. J. P. French, Bombay. (*deceased*)

Hyderabad State

Rev. G. E. Brown, Hyderabad.

HON. SECRETARY

Rev. C. Brown, Jessore, B. M. S. House, Girgaon, Bombay.
Rev. H. J. Lane, *Bacca Bengal.*