

## News and Notes.

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

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Series VIII.

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NOVEMBER, 1919.

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### THE FUTURE OF TURKEY.

Suspicion as to the decision to be reached by the Peace Conference regarding the future of Turkey seems to be on the increase in the minds of Muslims in India, and hardly a day passes but there appears a report of some meeting of Muhammadans at which a resolution was passed, urging on the Government the advisability of effecting an early settlement in favour of the continuance of Turkish sovereignty. The latest thing in this connection is a very large notice which appeared a few days ago in one of the Bombay dailies, headed "KHILAFAT DAY, AN APPEAL TO MOSLEMS." This notice contains an appeal to Muslims "to realise the crisis through which the Muslim world is now passing, owing to the proposed dismemberment of Turkey, and the consequent weakening of the Temporal Power of the Khalifat-ul-Muslimin." Friday the 17th of October was fixed as a "Day of Solemn Prayer for the continuance and permanence of the Temporal Power of the Khalifa." One of the strangest things in this connection is an appeal to the Hindus, by a Hindu leader, that every Hindu, man and woman, should "observe the 17th instant, and thus put a sacred seal on the Hindu-Mahomedan bond." This same leader says, "A true Moslem can no more contemplate with equanimity the dismemberment of Turkey than a Christian can contemplate the desecration of what is dearest and nearest to him." Neither this gentleman, nor the Muhammadans at large, seem to have the remotest realization of the true inwardness of the case. They forget the time, centuries ago, when Christians had to contemplate with such "equanimity" as they could command the things which we are now told no Muslim can possibly contem-

plate with equanimity. As a non-Muslim and non-Christian Indian writer pointed out in the *Times of India* a few weeks ago, "Turkey cast in her lot with our enemies, prolonged the war for years, supplied food-stuffs to the Germans, and in every way was our bitterest enemy . . . . Turkey conquered Constantinople in 1453. Why should she not be turned out in 1919? . . . There are plenty of mosques in the city. Yes, Christian churches turned into mosques." We Christians do not, of course, want to dwell on this side of the question, but it ought not to be forgotten.

It is strange to find Hindus and Muslims fraternizing in this way. One wonders how much farther it will go, and whether it is true fraternity that we see, or only outward show for the sake of attaining a temporary advantage. Is it possible for the non-flesh-eating Hindu really to coalesce with the carnivorous Muslim? And yet we have heard that quite recently the two did actually dine together, in one or two places. Can it be possible that the iconoclastic Muslim will ever really sympathize with the Hindu who bows down to wood and stone? It seems to argue a lowering of the Muslim's lofty monotheistic ideal.

But, further, it appears to most Christians that the time long-foretold has come when the fall of the great Gentile Power, which for long centuries has trodden down the Holy City Jerusalem, and the Holy Nation the Jews, must take place. The Muhammadans of India certainly pay a great compliment to the might of Britain when they imply, as they clearly do, that a word from Britain will at once secure them all that they ask. They do not realize that, when the time appointed by God arrives, no earthly power, not even the strong hand of Britain, nor the power of all the Allies together, can avert the fall of Turkey. Let us pray God that the Christian rulers of the world-powers may be filled with wisdom, that they may be ready and willing in the Day of His Power. Let us also, in all our dealings with our Muhammadan fellow-subjects, show Christian love and sympathy. We must feel for them at this time, when they are looking upon the end of that great empire on which their hopes have been set, but which has shown in its past and present history that it lacks that character of righteousness upon which alone true and lasting Empire is based. It is a time of bitterness for them, and we must let them see that we are not gloating over them, but truly desire that they shall find in Jesus Christ their inheritance in that great Empire which shall never pass away.

H. J. LANE SMITH.

### “ A CALL TO TRUTH.”

This is the title of a 4-page handbill which has been printed by the leaders of the Qadiani or Ahmadia Movement, and distributed among people in England with a view to their conversion to Islam. We give some extracts from it herewith. Whatever we may think of such efforts, and however futile we may consider them to be, we may admit at any rate that they show a deep unrest of heart, and a real dissatisfaction with the general level of morals in all parts of the civilized world. The leaders of this Movement in London constantly attack the morality of the great metropolis, and with how much good reason God knows.

‘The utter estrangement of men from spirituality, the prevalence of evils and the abundance of vice in the present age all call for a Divine Messenger. If ever there was raised a prophet in the world, there must be one in the present age also, and if ever a reformer appeared for the reformation of evil, there must be one even now. . . . But it is a pity that although the time calls for a prophet, and all religions are agreed as to the present being the time of his advent, the people of the age are not alive to their duty of recognizing the Promised Messenger and of having their spirituality revived by drinking of the sweet water that God has sent down from heaven in the fulness of time. . . . Does the world expect a prophet that should come down with angels from heaven, and to whose truth God should bear witness by means of a voice from heaven loud enough to be heard throughout the world, who should have paradise on his right hand and hell on his left, and who should be possessed with power to decree the fate of men? If the world is entertaining such a hope, that hope will never be realized. . . . It is men that are raised as prophets for men. . . . No being can serve as an exemplar for beings of another class. Prophets do not come down from heaven; they are born as ordinary mortals are. . . . O seekers after Truth, know it for certain that the prophecy relating to the Promised One. . . . found its fulfilment in the person of Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian, the founder of the Ahmadia Movement, and that henceforth none shall appear who will fulfil in his person all these prophecies until the roll call of Doomsday. It is now for you to recognise the Divine Messenger and be blessed. . . . Let everyone who has love in his heart and whose soul is anxious to fall prostrate on his threshold come forward, for the time of the realisation of his desire has drawn nigh, and the hour for the satisfaction of his longing is at hand. The Living God has not closed the door of Divine revelation and blessings in Islam. God speaks even to-day as He did of yore. He has spoken in this age to His Holiness Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, the promised Messiah. Nay, He has even spoken to hundreds

of his followers. . . . O ye people of Europe and America, ye have benefitted much by devoting yourselves to the material creation of God, and the doors of various arts and sciences have been opened to you. Is not this a sufficient inducement to you to explore the spiritual world so that even greater success may fall to your lot. . . . Remember, the Islam that has been presented to you by the Christian Missionary is not the real Islam, but only a mutilated representation of it. The real Islam is such a priceless repository of spiritual truths that no other religion can be compared with it. . . . At the present time, when all religions are powerless to furnish a living proof of their truth, Islam is the only religion which furnishes proof of its being a living faith, and by following which one can enjoy the privilege of conversing with God. So do embrace the living religion of Islam, and do accept the prophet who attained to this eminent position by following the law of Islam, so that you may be counted among those who obey all the commandments of God and believe in all His prophets, so that the spirit of Jesus may be pleased with you; for he alone who accepts his like accepts him, and one who rejects the like of Jesus also rejects Jesus in whose name he has come.'

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## NOTES.

A Bengal Missionary writes :—“The following question was a subject of discussion among some missionaries during the last Id Festival and I should appreciate it if same could be answered in the *News and Notes*,

‘Is it considered a compromise or in any way unwise for a missionary to partake of the Id festival, that is the Festival of the Breaking of the Fast?’”

Will some Members express an opinion about this?

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“I have been in Persia under the C.M.S., and hope to return to Isfahan next year to reopen the educational work there which had to be closed down owing to the war. I hope to return to open up again the Stuart Memorial School, and to take the place of the Rev. J. H. Linton, as Principal of the School, now that he has been nominated as Bishop in Persia.

I should very much value the prayers of others for this work, which has its own peculiar difficulties, and for which I feel very unfit. But I

do feel very strongly the great possibilities of the school, and it is hoped to develop it up to College Standard, and to make it the centre of training native Persians to go out and evangelise their own people.

I hope to start a Hostel in connection with the school as soon as possible, and should much value special prayer for this, and also to know of any others who have had experience in Muhammadan Hostel work, which might be of use to me. In fact, I should value any suggestions from others who have had experience in school work, if any were kind enough to pass them on to me."

W. J. THOMPSON, CAPT. R. E.

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"I have an increasing interest in the work among Muslims, although I am not privileged longer to be in active service. It seems the most I can now do is through the service of prayer, which is more and more a blessing to my own soul, and I trust avails something for the people of India among whom it was such a privilege to work for 35 years of my life. . . . I recall a little girl in one of my Muhammadan Day-schools, who was most bright and interesting. In a little reader which we used in school, she had read the story of the Saviour and His Love to her, until her little heart opened up to take Him in, and to give Him such a wealth of love as a child's heart can give. When the parents found her devotion to Christ, they took her out of school, but she still had her reader, and in secret read over and over the story which had become so dear to her. In time she won over an older brother, and he prevailed upon the parents to allow her to go to school again, saying to them that she was so young no harm could come from it. But the final result was the winning of the brother for Christ, and eventually the parents. The time to begin this great work is with the children, in their tender and impressionable years. I pray much and especially that the Muslim children may be taught the wonderful story."

EMILY L. HARVEY. Late of  
M. E. Mission, Sironcha,  
C. P.

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## REVIEWS.

We have received the following for review :—

(1) "Missions Overseas," eleventh review, 1919. This is the annual report of the Central Board of Missions of the Church of England, and is compiled by Dr. H. U. W. Stanton.

(2) "A descriptive Catalogue of Urdu Christian Literature," by the Rev. F. J. Western, M. A., of Delhi.

(3) "The Church Missionary Review" for September, which contains an article by Dr. Zwemer, and also notes on several important and interesting topics relating to Islam.

(4) "The Teaching of the Quran," by Dr. H. U. W. Stanton.

We hope to review all these in next month's *News and Notes*.

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### HONORARY SECRETARY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

(1) **Change of Hon. Secretary.** The present Hon. Secretary regrets to have to announce that, as, in consequence of shortness of staff, he has been obliged to undertake important duties in connection with the whole C. M. S. and Z. B. & M. M. organization in Western India, he feels it is impossible for him to give that attention to the work of the M. M. League which it deserves. He has been compelled therefore to ask to be relieved of the post. He has great pleasure in informing members that the Rev. L. Bevan Jones, B. A., B. D., of the Baptist Mission, Dacca, Bengal, has kindly consented to undertake the duties of Hon. Secretary, and the Committee have unanimously elected him. After the 1st of December, all communications, remittances, etc., should therefore be addressed to Mr. Bevan Jones.

(2) **Change of Address.** Members are earnestly requested kindly to notify the Hon. Sec. in good time of any change of address, whether homewards or outwards, in order that *News and Notes* may be sent direct to them. Changes for a short period only need not be notified.

(3) **Subscriptions.** Members who have not already paid their subscriptions for the current year, ending 30th April 1920, are respectfully requested to be kind enough to do so without delay.

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Every mind was made for growth, for knowledge; and its nature is sinned against when it is doomed to ignorance.

Channing.

**TOPICS FOR PRAYER.**

1. **Thanksgiving** for the signs that God's "purposes are ripening fast." **Prayer** that we all may "fix our eyes on" His "returning," and be found each waiting and watching and doing the work He has entrusted to us.

2. **Thanksgiving** for all signs of desire for education among Musalmans, in India, China, and other lands. **Prayer** that the Church may rise to the glorious opportunity, as well as the heavy responsibility, which such increasing literacy among Muslims places before her.

3. **Prayer** that all the Christian rulers of the world-powers may be guided by God's own wisdom in settling the questions now agitating the Muslim world.

4. **Prayer** that the followers of the false messiah of Qadian may be led to the True Messiah, Jesus, the Son of God, and find in Him the satisfaction of all their hearts' longings and aspirations.

5. **Thanksgiving** that so far the war has not so adversely affected the finances of missions as was expected. **Prayer** that the present stringency in funds, mainly caused by adverse exchange, may not lead to any curtailment of work among Muhammadans.

6. **Prayer** for more workers to be set apart definitely for work among Muhammadans, in India, China, and other lands in the Far East.

7. **Prayer** for the work in Persia to which Capt. Thompson is hoping to go out next year (see p. 52-53).

8. **Prayer** that Muslim children may be reached for Christ in their early years (see p. 53).

9. **Prayer** for the new Hon. Sec. of the M. M. League.

10. **Prayer** for all our fellow-members of the League, and that many more may be led to join.

11. **Thanksgiving** for the conversion of the wife of a Muslim convert in Honan (China); also for the conversion recently of two Muslims in Shantung.

12. **Prayer** for two Chinese Muslim girls, aged 15 or 16, "who truly believe, but who are encountering family opposition" in Shantung (China).

**NEW MEMBERS.**

57	Gillison, T., Esq.	(F. R. C. S. & P.)	
		L. M. S.	Tsinan, Sung, China.
76	Lyons, Rev. H.	C. I. M.	On furlough, c/o C.I.M., London.
94	Reid, Miss F. M.	C. I. M. (?)	Shanghai, China.
98	Harris, Rev. G. K.	C. I. M.	Sining, Kansu, China.
101	Haslam, Miss M. E.	C. I. M.	Hinganfu, Shensi, China.
112	Banks, Miss G.	C. I. M.	Kwangtehchow, Anhwei, China.
123	Cotter, Rev. F. J. M.	Am. Ch. Miss.	Wuchang, Hupeh, China.
125	Lindell, Rev. J. J.	Luth. Miss.	Honanfu, Honan, China.
155	Dykstra, Rev. D.	Arabian Miss.	Bahrain, Persian Gulf.
156	Dykstra, Mrs. D.	do.	do. do.
135	Logan, Mrs. Jennie B.	Fellowship of Faith for Moslems.	London.

*The Annual Subscription to the League is Rs. 2-8-0 (about 4/9 English) News and requests for Prayer should be sent as early in the month as possible to the Hon. Secretary :*

**Rev. H. J. Lane Smith,**

*Church Mission House,*

*Girgaum,*

*Bombay.*

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Bombay Guardian Press, Bombay.