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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 IX.

No. 12.

December, 1921.

Dec. 1st = 30th Rabi'ul-Awwal, (3rd mo.) Dec. 2nd = 1st Rabi'ul Akhir, 1340, A.H.

○ SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD, lift my
thought into the breadth of Thy purpose.
Save me from all narrowness of outlook. Let
my mind be full of hospitality. Help me to
remember and to pity the needs of others.
Let all the nations praise Thee !

“ The more readily we admit the possibility of our own cherished convictions being mixed with error, the more vital and helpful whatever is right in them will become ; and no error is so conclusively fatal as the idea that God will not allow us to err, though He has allowed all other men to do so.....In every nation, he that feareth God and worketh righteousness is accepted of Him. See that you understand what that righteousness means, and set your hand to it stoutly ; you will always measure your neighbour's creed kindly in proportion to the substantial fruits of your own.”—*Ruskin.*

Should we Alter our Methods with Muslims ?

A SYMPOSIUM.

IV.

Our Vice-President writes :

In the approach to Muslims it is impossible to avoid controversy, but I feel that it should be reduced to a minimum, and certainly should not be indulged in at a preaching service in the bazaar, except under special circumstances.

In recent years I have come to see that my first work as a missionary is to show that Christ is worthy of acceptance and the principles He gave us are those of real religion. The art of preaching these truths with convincing and convicting power is the thing that should exercise us most. The same applies to Christian books and tracts for Muslims. Tracts like "The Paraclete," "The Son of God," and "The Gospel of Barnabas," I keep tied up in a bundle on the shelf, and give them to any enquirers who are concerned about such subjects. When I used to give them away broadcast I discovered that they gave Muslims texts, information, and illustrations for attacks upon us and our Faith.

We should give men credit for thinking more than we imagine they do. If we preach or write lucidly and convincingly on such words as, "Never man spake like this man," or "God highly exalted him, and gave unto him the name which is above every name," there will be no need for us to bring in Muhammad, for the hearer's mind will be busy at contrasts all the time.

I do hope as a result of this symposium that a new set of tracts will be written and published. They are badly needed.

Brahmanbaria, Bengal.

J. TAKLE.

V.

From recent experiences in our Mohammedan Girls' School, and in Zenana work among Mohammedan women, I heartily endorse the principles embodied in the suggestions made at the conference in Egypt. I would certainly advocate their adoption without delay in our work here; indeed in all our contact with the women I have recently become more convinced of the necessity for the "Friendly Approach."

I find them more friendly to us than ever in spite of the Khilafat and non-co-operation movements. They are a very poor, ignorant, illiterate class—just Mohammedan women in all their need. We want a deeper understanding of and sympathy with that need which talk and comparisons of religions never gives. We need to make the friendly approach with all that implies of patience, love and helpfulness.

Jagadhri, Panjab.

(MISS) M. SALMOND.

VI

This question has been raised primarily because of a conviction in the minds of some of us that a good deal of our intercourse with Muslims, whether in conversation or through the printed page, lacks, or at least has been apt to lack, the note that is essentially Christian. In our first experiences of Islam many of us were led into the field by a way that we knew not. Coming sooner or later into contact with Muslims, we felt ourselves under a kind of necessity to read up the methods and arguments that had hitherto been in vogue, and we found that over much of such literature there was writ large the word "controversy." We felt, and still feel, that if that is all it is not good enough.

True, there are times when one seems simply forced back on to controversial ground by Muslims themselves, but this is not an invariable, nor an inevitable experience. In any case, while aware that many a Muslim is taught to retort, we should always bear in mind that as disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ we have much higher and more urgent business than *that*. Our supreme concern should be, not to argue over doctrines, but to present to them Jesus in all His beauty and power—a beauty and power which find their reflection in our own lives—and to see not so much the Muslim as the man, the man for whom Christ died. It is towards a more determined recognition of this, that Dr. Sherwood Eddy made the appeal from which we quoted in the September issue. Now, unless we are prepared to admit that Islam as a whole is too big a problem for the Christian Church (and this I cannot possibly bring myself to do), we must recognize that our comparative failure in winning converts from that faith, is largely due not to any lack of worthy controversialists on our side, but to the fact that we have somehow failed to present Jesus in a sufficiently winning way and backed with a sufficiently earnest yearning for the salvation of these souls.

There is no question here of shirking debate as such, but just an honest recognition that certain methods of debate and certain types of argumentative literature have unquestionably failed to bring about results such as we have a right to expect can be achieved when the Spirit of Jesus is at work in the ranks of Islam.

If members will read again the suggested new principles for our work, outlined in the October number, it will be seen that our friends in Egypt do not propose to dispense with all types of controversial literature, but only such of it as 'hinders' and 'unnecessarily offends'—a very different thing. Let us frankly ask ourselves whether some of this latter style of writing does not still form a part of our stock in trade. And surely Mr. Takle is right in keeping other useful kinds out of the way, lest the medicine in them bring on *convulsion* when it was put there to induce *conviction*!

Your Muslim may be, frequently enough, quite innocent of

offence—indeed are they not all of them ultimately the *victims* of that age-long gigantic blunder, the worst fruit of which is seen in the tendency which keeps them from transferring their allegiance to Christ? That is a state of things which, if we had Christ's sensitiveness, or even Paul's, would evoke in us not only a desire not to wound unnecessarily, but a profound pity and agonizing prayer.

Only like souls I see the folk thereunder,
 Bound who should conquer, slaves who should be Kings,—
 Hearing their one hope with an empty wonder,
 Sadly contented in a show of things ;—
 Then with a rush the intolerable craving
 Shivers throughout me like a trumpet-call,—
 Oh to save these, to perish for their saving,
 Die for their life, be offered for them all !

God knows it is easy enough to write down such lines as these, and yet, dare we be content with an ambition which falls short of a like passion? Will He be content? And if He expects it of us, will He not also grant us the needed grace and wisdom to bring about such modifications in our methods as are both desirable and urgent?

L. B. J.

Cuttings from the Indian Press.

'THE time has arrived in India when it is impossible for all true Muslims to be loyal to their religion and obey the commandments of Allah and at the same time to obey certain of the laws made by the British bureaucracy in this country. The time has also arrived when it is impossible for all true and patriotic Indians—Indians whose patriotism is not determined by official frown or official favour or smile—to faithfully serve their country and at the same time to break certain of the laws made by the bureaucracy.....The duty of Mussalmans at this juncture, if they would continue to be true followers of Islam, is abundantly clear. They have no middle course to choose. They must either remain true Muslims or become apostates by giving up the principles of their religion and disobeying the commands of their Creator.' *The Mussalman Weekly*, on the Present Situation.

In reference to the threatened withdrawal of the British subsidy from King Hussain, because he has procured aeroplanes from Italy, the same journal comments as follows :

'So Great Britain for her own interests pays a subsidy to the so-called King of the Hedjaz who, as a vassal of the British Government, rules over the holy places of Islam, which, in accordance with the traditions of the holy Prophet, must be under the custody of a really independent Muslim monarch. The Muslim world cannot, and will not tolerate such a state of things.'

The editor of *The Mussalman* seems to have only just heard of Mr. Goldsack's Arabic-Bengali Qur'an with commentary. The work was of course started years ago and runs into 30 parts, the last of which was completed recently. Each part costs three annas. A broad smile must have passed over the face of Mr. Goldsack at the suggestion that his work is intended for free distribution among school boys!

The editor calls attention to it in the following leader :

CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY TACTICS.—Revd. Goldshake (sic!), a Christian Missionary, has lately issued a vernacular translation of the first ten paras (Chapters) of the Holy Quran with copious foot-notes. The whole trend of the translation and of the notes is to misrepresent Islam and the Prophet and to lower the religion in the estimation of those who may read the work. Jessore is at present the head-quarters of Mr. Goldshake and the translation has been issued from the Christian Literature Society at No. 46, Dharamtala Street, Calcutta. The work it is said, is intended for free distribution among school boys and thus to undermine the faith of Muslim boys in Islam. We warn the community against this covert attack on Islam and hope this timely warning will prevent the mischief which the work is intended to create.

The arrest and conviction of the famous Ali Brothers and others, for seditious speeches, has been the subject of articles representing every shade of opinion. We quote below part of an article from the pen of the Hon. Mr. Bhurgri of the Legislative Assembly:—

“I have already pointed out above how the recent prosecutions and convictions have given a fresh lease to the grave discontent and excitement already prevalent in the country. Add to this the further excitement due to the confiscation of the Ulemas 'Fatwa,' and also all kinds of rumours of Mahatma Gandhi's and other leaders' arrests should they resort to civil disobedience or acts of that kind. It is only desirable that the Government, not out of their weakness but their strength, should pacify the discontent and excitement as far as it reasonably should be, before it is too late.

The only way by which, it appears to me, the Government of India can do so, and thus avert both the external danger of an anti-British Alliance by Foreign Powers and internal discontent, riots and bloodshed is for the Government, for Lord Reading himself, and for the various Governors and Governments of Provinces to use their personal and official influence with the British Cabinet and move it Now; and at this stage to conclude an honourable peace with Turkey without waiting for the results of the Turco-Greek War, on the lines laid down by the Prime Minister on behalf of the whole Empire on 5th January 1918, viz: “not to deprive the Turks of their Capital and the rich and renowned lands of Thrace and Asia Minor.”

This surely cannot be characterized as anything like or approaching the impossible demand of 'status quo ante bellum.' What it in fact

amounts to is that Turkey should not be treated worse than other enemy powers, that she should retain those provinces which were admitted even by the British and Allied statesmen to be predominantly Turkish, that the Arab Provinces should be granted full autonomy, and finally that the Holy Cities of Mecca and Medina may remain under the suzerainty, however nominal, of the Khalifa.

Is this too much to ask of the Indian and the British Government in whose hands the destinies of this country at the present moment mostly lie? Will they be so blind or stubborn as not to face facts in their true perspective, and resort to proper remedy at the proper moment? No, I still retain my optimism, my faith in the statesmanship and foresight of Lord Reading and his Government, and hope that they will take time by the forelock and press on the Cabinet the necessity of immediate action in the direction referred to above."

News from Egypt.

A recent visitor to Cairo gives his impressions of two of our leaders there in the Great Campaign:—

"There was Dr. Zwemer, busy as usual with many irons in the fire, but always free to speak with those who desired to speak with him. Others interrupted him, but there he was, always busy, always hard at work; and what struck me in regard to him was this, he could not keep away from the subject of the Mohammedans and the Press. Studying his character as a friend, I was very much pleased to see the way, the cute way, in which he was always "there." "Have you seen this?" handing me a tract. Then, "put it in your pocket," and into my pocket it went. All the time he was impressing me with the way in which the work was being done. The heart of one of the leaders guided by the Spirit of God and not losing a moment in this day of opportunity.

On one occasion he took me round the great University there, and when we went in he embraced one of the Professors, which greatly astonished others besides myself, for there was real affection between the two. The way in which we were allowed to see things with him, which otherwise we should not have seen, impressed me very much. It was a very busy day, and as we went from group to group in that University, I was struck with the field which was opened up. It was a great revelation to see the possibilities, and when one thought of those of the Nile Mission Press, and how it is providing seed for thought, and how these people can read for themselves, I thought what a great opportunity it is to reap in this great open field.

In the streets of Cairo I spent several evenings with Mr. Upson, another devout servant of God, a keen one to win souls, one who did a hero's work for the soldiers of the Great War. I have not words to express my gratitude to Mr. Upson for the great work that he did. I saw the work that he does now in the streets of Cairo. He would talk to civilian or soldier, and the next moment he was turning to Mohammedans, and he was laying down, I was going to say, the Law and the Gospel at one and the same time, for he did not hesitate to put upon them the instruction of the day, "Thou shalt not," as well as to give them the good tidings of

the grace of God. I also noticed that many friends came up and asked for a few of his pamphlets, and immediately began to distribute whilst he was speaking.'

* * * *

THE NILE MISSION PRESS: At our native Conference for Moslem converts there were some Colporteurs from the Nile Mission Press, one of whom was, years ago, one of seven who came out from one village, and has gone on steadily ever since. At the end of this Conference these Moslem converts gathered together, and we had a lovely communion service, and after it was over the converts met and drew up a document containing the conditions of a Society for helping Moslem converts. The converts themselves have formed this Committee, and the idea is for them to give so much each week into the Treasury of the Society for the purpose of helping Moslem converts, to go after backsliders, and men who are thrown out of work because of their confession of Christ. The Chairman of this Committee is Sheikh Sikander, one of those who is employed at the Nile Mission Press, helping in the correction of proofs.

The Nile Mission Press is a most valuable agency for helping Moslem converts. Many a man has found his footing in that Press, and got most helpful teaching from Mr. Upson and Mr. Weaver. *It is valuable as an industrial agency for converts.*

Another thing I might say about the Press, and that is that it has been an inspiration to others to scatter literature. An inspiration to Moslems to produce similar leaflets. A pamphlet published by Moslems, gives to the Moslem, in the words of our Saviour, proof that He is not God, but that He is the Son of God. It is a great matter to see them stirred up to study the Word of God.

Not only Moslems do this. An orthodox Copt gives tracts away to the Coptic Church, advising them to rise in the morning and to read God's Word, to engage in prayer, and to gather their families for prayer, to lift up their eyes whilst at work.

* * * *

THE UNITED EVANGELISTIC CAMPAIGN: Mr. and Mrs. McClenahan, together with other missionaries of the Egypt General Mission, are now on a cold season tour down the Nile. Their object is to carry the Gospel message to every village and as far as possible to every individual in the land during a period of eight months commencing from October. They plead for the prayers of God's people. They acknowledged, in anticipation, that 'the undertaking requires resources far beyond what are visible and in hand. This is a new venture of faith for us, of a sort we have had no experience of before. Pray that there may be a rapid going forth to reach the lost, all over the land. Pray for the Church of God in Egypt in this great day of opportunity,

For Praise and Prayer.

PRAISE that many Muhammadan women in the Punjab are showing themselves 'more friendly than ever.' (P. 90.)

PRAISE that during the present period of grave unrest in India, the turbulent spirit of fanatical Muslims may be kept in check.

- PRAYER that abundant wisdom, courage and kindness may be given to the Viceroy of India and all servants of the Crown in the administration of the affairs of state just now.
- PRAYER that there may be an equitable, righteous and speedy settlement of the Turkish question.
- PRAYER that God may open up for all of us ways of entrance into Muslim hearts at the present time.
- PRAYER for God's richest blessing to rest upon and to follow the labours of our friends in Egypt in their United Evangelistic Campaign. (P. 95.)

Death of a Member.

We report with sorrow the death of Miss M. G. H. Matthews of the C. E. Z. Mission, Batala, Punjab. Miss Matthews was a keen worker, and a loyal supporter of the M. M. League.

New Member.

257. Rev. C. A. R. Janvier, Ewing Christian College, Allahabad. (The present number of members is about 275.)

NOTICE.

As last year, we propose to collect members' subscriptions for the new year (together with any small outstanding amount) by V. P. P. along with the despatch of the January issue. Will all members within the Indian Postal area please make a special note of this. We shall be glad also if all members who have recently returned from furlough will kindly notify the Secretary of this fact together with details of their present address.

The annual subscription to the League is now only Rs. 2-0-0. The Secretary will be glad to send spare copies 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.



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