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It's no
use trying
to convert
Mohammedans

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A MOSLEM CONVERT.

REITERATED misstatement can only be met by repeated refutation. To some, missions among the Mohammedans, according to their published opinions, are hopeless, fruitless, useless. They say it is impossible to Christianize them, and there have been very few, if any, converts.

Is this assertion a fact?

Hudson Taylor remarked a few years ago : " I expect to see some of the most marvellous results within a few years in the missions to Islam, because of *this work especially, the enemy has said it is without result. God is not mocked.*" Has the Chinese apostle read the signs of the times aright?

Here are a few up to date facts which speak for themselves, and if they do not silence gainsayers, they will at least greatly strengthen the faith of those who labor for the evangelization of the whole Moslem world.

Dr. Wherry, says in his book on Islam, just published, p. 63: " In India many hundreds of the followers of Islam have publicly abjured that faith and been received into the church." Dr. Martyn Clark, of Amritsar, writes to

me in a personal letter, dated April 10th, 1897: "I should say quite one-half of the converts from among the higher classes in the Punjaub are from amongst Moslems. Half of the C. M. S. (Church Missionary Society), native clergy, are ex-Moslems. Exact numbers I cannot give you, but I believe our next census will be startling. Never was there such a spirit of inquiry, shaking of the dry bones and raging of Satan as nowadays." Rev. St. Clair Tisdall, of Persia, writes (1896): "Conversions from among Moslems are not few. In the Punjaub they may be numbered by hundreds, taken from almost every position in life. In Turkey, a congregation was gathered by Dr. Koelle, but man after man vanished—murdered for his faith, no doubt—and was never heard of more. I have myself been privileged to baptize Moslems of several different races; one an Afghan, several Persians, one Turk, and not a few natives of India." In the 1897 May number of the C. M. S. *Intelligencer*, we read of some Moslem converts in Persia imprisoned for confessing Christ, and of a company of Moslem women who read the gospel by night for fear of detection. At Bagdad, there are converted Moslems in the

Turkish army reserve, and at Busrah, there is one awaiting baptism. In Egypt, there have been scores of baptisms, and last year a student at Al Azhar University and also a Bey's son confessed Christ. Kamil Abd El Messia, who preached Christ in Arabia, was a Syrian Moslem convert. I know of others like him whose names, because they are still living, it would be unsafe to mention.

From Palestine we just hear that "the mother of the keeper of the Great Mosque at Jerusalem, listened to the gospel attentively and repeatedly on her dying bed;" and other women of the city have also believed. At Delhi, one in the royal family, a Mohammedan Eurasian lady, was baptized last year. The Imam of the village mosque at Batala and two learned Moslems of Bannu were publicly baptized in the spring of 1896. Rev. Ihsan Ullah, a converted Mohammedan, held revival services at Peshawur last year and baptized three Mohammedans. Rev. A. E. Ball, of Kerachi, baptized two Mohammedans, brothers, from the Khairpur state the same year. At Bombay, three Mohammedan inquirers were awaiting bap-

tism last autumn. Rev. M. S. Goldsmith baptized three Moslems at Hyderabad in 1896, and the special services held in that district last year were said to be attended to overflowing by a crowd of English-speaking Mohammedans.

In North Africa, a remarkable movement is in progress among Mohammedans and very many have accepted Christ, but I am pledged to secrecy concerning the particulars.

The latest news from Persia tells of more baptisms. Mr. Stileman reports the baptism of a blind girl named Khurshid, "a fruit of the dispensary work." She enjoyed the daily reading in the wards and attended Bible-classes at the ladies' house. The convert Hamideh (baptized in May) used to pass on what she knew to her blind friend, who soon expressed her wish to be baptized, and said she could rejoice in her blindness, for it had been the means of bringing her to the True Light. She took a keen delight in studying a portion of St. John's Gospel prepared on the Braille system, which had been adapted to Persian by Mr. Tisdall, and she can now truly

say from her heart, "Once I was blind, but now I can see, the Light of the World is Jesus."

For fifteen years the missionaries labored in Algiers and had only two or three converts to reward their consecration and devotion. Now, however, there is quite an outbreak of spiritual life and blessing among the Kabyles.

The reason that statistics, in regard to the exact number of converts from Islam, cannot be easily obtained, and when obtained *are altogether too low* in their estimates, becomes evident when we consider the persecution and trial which such converts are subject to in nearly all lands. They come to Jesus by night, and are afraid to confess him openly in many cases. Sir William Muir's recent translation of the Arabic story, "Sweet First Fruits," makes this very plain. And truth is even stranger than fiction founded on fact. The life of Kamil Abd El Messia, shortly to appear from the press, proves it by a remarkable example.

So much concerning the conversion of adult Moslems. But any one who knows the character of work in Moslem lands would not be unfair

enough to apply the test of baptismal statistics to the work. There are other indications of spiritual life entering the Moslem-world. *The Devil takes no antiseptic precautions against a non-contagious Christianity.* And the whole lurid horizon proclaims in persecutions and massacres and raging oppositions everywhere that Islam feels the power of Christian missions—even though they have only begun to attack, in a miserly and puny way, this stronghold of Satan. The whole organized opposition of the Ottoman Government in all its myriad forms, shows plainly to all, but fools, that the Moslems are becoming alarmed lest they become Christianized,

The Moslem is a sinner; dead in sin. Only the power of the Holy Spirit can awaken the dead. But “all things are possible to him that believeth.” “This kind can come forth by nothing but by prayer.” “Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you that God should raise the dead?”

It is not a time for the friends of the Kingdom to count converts, but to grasp the sword of the Spirit. Thousands of Moslems are studying the Bible in every Moslem land. Their faith may be weak and their fear to

confess Christ great. But it is not for us to break the bruised reed or quench the smoking flax. God will yet make these bruised reeds pillars in the temple of our God, and His Spirit will kindle the smoking flax into a burning and shining light. For the things that are impossible with man are possible with God, and in our day He is hastening His word to perform it.

S. M. ZWEMER.

A Prayer.

O Lord God, to whom the sceptre of right belongeth, lift up Thyself, and travel in the greatness of Thy strength throughout the Mohammedan lands of the East; because of the anointing of Thy Son, Jesus Christ, as Thy true Prophet, Priest and King, destroy the sword of Islam, and break the yoke of the false prophet Mohammed from off the necks of Egypt, Arabia, Turkey, Persia, and other Moslem lands, that so there may be opened throughout these lands a great door and effectual for the Gospel, that the Word of the Lord may have free course and be glorified, and the veil upon so many hearts may be removed, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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