

The Missionary World.

POLITICIANS and missionary workers are alike watching with breathless interest and deep concern the rapid changes in the situation in the Nearer East. Rumour is rife, but day by day facts are emerging which point to the victory of the allied states over Turkey. The *Spectator* of November 2 quotes Isaiah x. 28-33 as a description of the "huddling" of one terror on another, as "The Burden of Turkey" sounds in our ears. One way or other the issues may be decided before these words are read. All war has become a painful anachronism: the war of the Christians upon the Moslem, however justified by oppression and cruelty, has a special sting. The present conflict touches great issues in two directions. Politically, the European Powers are concerned, and gravely so, in any dismemberment of Turkey. Earnest prayer should be offered that conflicting interests may be reconciled. Religiously, the Moslem world is being touched at its heart. We shall soon know whether Pan-Islamism is a practical reality, and whether, which is perhaps more doubtful, it really centres round the Sultan of Turkey, or whether Arabia, its ancient home, will become its rallying ground. Meantime there is need for watchful intercession for the Moslem work of the Christian Church in every land, that the people in their ignorant fanaticism may not be stirred to anger, and that missionaries, especially Christian converts, may be sheltered from harm.

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Widely different is the assault upon the strongholds of Islam which is being developed now at Cairo. A study centre for Islam and Arabic, arising out of the recommendations of the Lucknow Conference of 1911, has been formed, with Dr. S. M. Zwemer, formerly of Bahrein, Arabia, a missionary of the Reformed Church in America, as Secretary, and the Rev. W. H. T. Gairdner of the C.M.S. as one of the principal instructors. The facilities of Cairo, which are unique, are being fully availed

of by this scheme. All missions at work in Egypt are co-operating, and a new day seems dawning for Moslem work. Missionaries of some experience in Moslem work in other lands, as well as new recruits, will thankfully avail themselves of the equipment thus offered.

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The Times of November 1 publishes a letter from Bishop Stileman, on the eve of his departure for Persia, reporting the opening of a Henry Martyn Memorial Fund, as an outcome of the recent centenary, to raise not less than £150 per annum for the strengthening of mission work in Persia. The scheme has strong backing both in the University of Cambridge and from Church leaders. The required sum should easily be raised. The Treasurer is the Rev. H. F. Stewart, Dean of Henry Martyn's College at Cambridge, St. John's.

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The Report of the Student Christian Movement of Great Britain and Ireland has just been issued to subscribers. It is full of strenuous purpose, a stirring record of "something attempted, something done," and of a true out-reaching to what lies beyond. The Movement has three departments—for general College work, for the Theological Colleges, and the Student Volunteer Missionary Union, fed by the other two. The S.V.M.U. declaration of purpose to become a foreign missionary if God permit has been signed by over 2,700 men and over 1,300 women. Of the men, 1,244 have already sailed for the mission-field, and 743 are either still in college or in training. Of the women, 450 have sailed, and 565 are in college or in training. Of the remainder, some died before sailing, a few are untraced, the remainder are either permanently or temporarily hindered or have withdrawn. Every mission-field can bear witness to the influence of the Union upon its members. We at the home base know its influence upon the Church. By the way, the October number of the *Student World*, the magazine of the World's Student Christian Federation, contains a powerful article by Professor Cairns,

comparing the British and American Student Movements. It goes far to the heart of things.

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The Oriental students resident in Great Britain have a claim upon Christian fellowship which is only slowly being recognized. They number well over 2,000 (80 per cent. are from India). Many of them have been educated in mission schools. These come to the West, we are told, "frank and confiding and sometimes eager to learn of Christ. They return again secretive, suspicious, and witnesses against the gospel." Their lot in our midst is often a hard one. Government is now taking some steps to secure their welfare; a few individuals, both men and women, are seeking to show them kindness and give them Christian aid. The Executive of the Student Christian Movement have recently appointed Mr. McEwan G. Lawson as secretary for this special work. Great things are hoped for from this new effort. Help in prayer and in offered hospitality will be specially welcome. The Movement defines its task with regard to foreign students as follows:

"1. Untiring effort to save these men, by information and personal companionship, from meeting initial difficulties and temptations defenceless.

"2. Repeated insistence on the importance of all Christian Union members adopting a Christian attitude towards these students, and maintaining that attitude in the face of unpopularity. In no other way can confidence be restored among Oriental students.

"3. A direct presentation of Christ to Orientals in a sympathetic and understanding way."

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News of the meeting of the Continuation Committee of the Edinburgh Conference continues to filter out through private individuals: we understand that an official statement will soon be before the Missionary Societies and the Church. On all hands there is thankfulness for the wonderful spirit of the meetings: this is illustrated strikingly by the extract from the Bishop of Winchester's letter in his *Diocesan Gazette*, which is reprinted in the *Record* of November 8. The Committee has practical work in hand which should effect much for efficiency

and economy in missionary enterprise ere long, but no contribution can be greater than that of the spirit of truth and unity in which its work is done. The Bishop writes :

“The Committee, and any work done in its name, is open to every Church in Christendom ; if any stand outside, it is by their own act. . . . I have never known, I think, quite so entirely Christian ‘an atmosphere’ full of reverent faith and remembrance of God—full of delicate and quiet consideration.”

Bishop Talbot further asks from his diocese “a contingent” of earnest prayers for Dr. J. R. Mott, who is travelling in India, China, and Japan, on behalf of the Continuation Committee, meeting missionaries of all Societies in conference to gather their collective experience, and to carry further inquiries begun before the Edinburgh Conference.

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The Missionary periodicals for November are full of good reading. Space will only allow us to mention a few articles which should on no account be missed. In the *C.M.S. Review* the Committee’s “Instructions to Outgoing Missionaries” are statesmanlike and timely. Mr. Denton’s account of Hampton Institute—“The Negro Problem in the State: A Solution”—should be read in conjunction with the Rev. A. G. Fraser’s on the same subject in the current number of the *International Review of Missions*. The *S.P.G. Mission Field* has “A Scripture Message” on 1 Tim. vi. 20, which is well up to the level of this remarkable series. The *Bible in the World* is specially good in “The Crusade with the Book,” an account of the colporteur work in Moslem lands, and in “The Heart of the Treasure,” examples of the spiritual energies of the Bible working in men’s hearts. “A Study in Survey and Occupation,” in *China’s Millions*, is a careful piece of work: the missionary map of Chekiang Province and the missionary statistics are full of contemporary interest. In the Wesleyan *Foreign Field* we specially notice “Leprosy and Lepers, Past and Present,” with a remarkable map showing the distribution of leprosy; in the Baptist *Herald* (whose articles continue all too short), “Through

Bolola's Hinterland"; in the L.M.S. *Chronicle*, a touching account of the celebration in Madagascar of the jubilee of the return of the missionaries after the great persecution. *Our Missions*, the quarterly of the Friends' Foreign Mission Association, continues its two good series, "The Training of Workers" and "Typical Days in the Field." The *Missionary Review of the World* has an admirable article by Professor Harlan Beach on "The Missionary Occupation of South Africa." We also welcome a new contemporary in the *Women's International Quarterly*, published by the World's Y.W.C.A. There is a wide field before a well-worked journal on these lines.

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The report of the Conference of women educationists recently held at Oxford is now ready—"The Christian Education of Women in the Far East"—and can be ordered from the offices of Student Christian Movement, 93, Chancery Lane, E.C. The closing sentences of the Rev. W. Temple's address on the last evening of the Conference make so fitting an ending for these Missionary Notes for 1912 that we quote them here :

"We need for our problem all the thought and study that we can give, but the kingdom of God is only going to be advanced in the spirit in which it was founded; all will be useless without the spirit of Christ, which is the spirit of Gethsemane and Calvary. We do not know what it is going to cost us. The call may not come to any one of us in the form of having to give up something that we specially value; it does come to all of us in the form of being ready to give up everything that we value. The power of the Cross has carried Christianity wherever it has triumphed; it is the power of the Cross that must carry us. And so we dedicate ourselves to the service."

