

A New Arabic-French Dictionary.

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I WOULD call attention to the new Arabic-French dictionary, published by the Jesuits at Beirût, as, on the whole, the best of the ordinary Arabic dictionaries of moderate size. The former 8vo edition was out of print some years ago, and the present edition is of smaller size, better printed, with improvements. Its system of abbreviations and symbols is very lucid, and saves a vast amount of space. The French title is as follows :—

“Vocabulaire Arabe-Français à l’usage des étudiants. Par un père missionnaire de la Cie de Jesus. A.M.D.G. Beyrouth : Imprimerie Catholique. 1883.” 16mo, pp. 10, 1009. Can be carried in the pocket. Costs here about \$3.25.

This dictionary has been drawn from the best sources, and is the ablest production of the Jesuit establishment at Beirût. Its existence is not generally known by the Protestant missionaries. It is sufficient to read the Arabic Bible, and all the chaste general literature, ancient and modern. It gives an exact knowledge of the roots, and points out the peculiar verb-inflections. Modern words, or modern significations of old words, are denoted by a peculiar sign. Its lack is expressed in the following words of the author’s “Avertissement” :

“Mais le respect dû aux étudiants et le désir de leur être utile, en éclairant leur esprit, sans offrir la moindre pierre d’achoppement à leur cœur, ont fait éliminer de ce vocabulaire toutes les expressions obscènes, si nombreuses dans la langue arabe et dans la plupart des dictionnaires de cette langue.”

It can be obtained through Westermann of New York, or through a consul at Beirût.