The

Arabian Mission

Field Report

Number Eighteen

April 1 to June 30, 1896.
THE ARABIAN MISSION.

TRUSTEES.

Rev. M. H. Hutton, D.D., Rev. C. L. Wells, D.D.,
" J. P. Searle, D.D., " Lewis Francis,
" D. Sage Mac Kay, D.D., Mr. John C. Giffing,
Mr. Francis Bacon.

OFFICERS FOR 1896-7.

Rev. M. H. Hutton, D.D., President.

" J. P. Searle, D.D., Vice-President.

" C. L. Wells, D.D., Recording Secretary.

" Henry N. Cobb, D.D., Cor. Sec., 25 E. 22d St., N. Y.

" J. L. Amerman, D.D., Asst. Sec., 25 E. 22d St., N. Y.

Mr. Peter Donald, Treasurer, 25 E. 22d St., N. Y.

HONORARY TRUSTEES.


Thomas Russell, Esq., Montclair, N. J.

Please draw checks and send remittances, or requests for information to "The Arabian Mission," 25 East 22d Street, New York City.
Quarterly Field Report of the Arabian Mission

April—June 1896.

BUSRAH AND BAHREIN.

God’s mercies over us have been new every morning and fresh every evening. He has continued to count us worthy to witness for Him in the midst of this dark Mohammedan land. Along all the usual channels it is still a ploughing and seed-sowing time; and, except to the eye of faith, the harvest seems as distant as ever. Our English preaching services have been specially encouraging. On Easter Sunday thirty-two were present, and fourteen partook of the Lord’s Supper. This is an advance over the time when Sabbath services were even less attended than they were desired. The European community has also taken a practical interest in helping forward a small circulating library in connection with our book shop. The number of natives who read English is increasing, and we frequently have demand for a class of books that we cannot keep on sale. With a couple of hundred good scientific and educational books in English and French and Arabic on the shelves—a simple system of drawing-books, with a small fee from patrons—such a library will help forward the cause of education, and prove an added attraction to our Bible depot.

Book Sales have increased slightly over last quarter; but the number of Moslems who purchase Scriptures at the shop is not as large as formerly. The sales by our travelling colporteurs on the river and in Busrah harbor are, however, on the increase. Besides the books sold according to the annexed tables, a very large number of illustrated Arabic leaflets and cards has been distributed at the dispensaries. Of these there is no record in the book-sales.

Two tours were made by Isa, the colporteur, during the quarter. On the first he was absent for thirty-one days, travelling from Amara to Koot, and across the inundated plain, past Shattrra and other villages, to Nasariyeh, on the Euphrates; thence down the river and back to Busrah. He sold in all 161 books, of which
130 were Scriptures. At Koot he was at first forbidden to sell, but, after making friends with a Mullah who was teaching a boys' school, he sold 61 books on the spot!

On his return to Busrah he was sent with Hebrew and Arabic Scriptures to Ezra's Tomb, half way to Amara, up the Tigris. This is a great shrine for the annual Jewish pilgrimage; but, unfortunately he came late, and only disposed of a few New Testament portions, and returned in a native boat, visiting the Bedouin villages.

During the quarter a new colporteur, Daniel Mikdas, was taken on trial. He has been selling Scriptures in the bazaars, and spent part of his time in reading the Bible at the dispensary to patients.

On May 18th Brother S. M. Zwemer was married to Amy Elizabeth Wilkes, of the Church Missionary Society, at Bagdad. On their return to Busrah, June 1st, Mrs. Zwemer immediately began work among the women, and at the dispensary, under Dr. Worrall's direction. She writes as follows of the possibilities and needs of the

WORK FOR WOMEN

at Busrah: "'Who art thou, oh great mountain? Before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain. And He shall bring forth the headstone with shoutings, crying Grace, grace unto it.' And so we are praying for and expecting that this awful mountain of Islam will be removed soon; and especially for the sake of our Muslim sisters, who suffer many things, not knowing the pure, perfect, holy liberty in Christ Jesus our Lord. We can only speak of the possibilities of work amongst women in these parts, because of our recent arrival among them. The vista is a wide one, and needs to supply its need the army of women spoken of in Ps. 68, R. V. The ground is very hard and full of weeds, both of their own superstitions, and those of the Eastern Churches. But they are grateful for kindness shown them; and even a kind word will draw out most of them. At the dispensary many were roused and touched by the Word spoken, and by the demonstration of its teaching in good deeds done to their bodies. One would like to follow up many to their homes. The difficulty here is the absence of streets or numbers to their houses. One has to wander around a collection of grass huts in order to find the person looked for. Several have, however, been visited, and received us kindly, assenting to our words. As the medical work progresses there may be a possibility
of gathering the women into a separate room, and having a separate Bible lesson with them. Such an audience is shifting and uncertain, as some of them are never seen again. Yet who can tell where seed sown may not spring up. Beside this work, we have a plan to visit the small grass and mud hut villages early in the morning, when the men are away at their work. The women then do nothing, apparently, but mind their babies. We visited one of these "kooret" this week, and had a nice little time with nine women and thirteen children. Their bodies were, of course, of the first importance to them; and on this occasion we gave out simple remedies, while my husband, who accompanied me on my first visit, spoke a few words from the Gospel to their souls. My difficulty just at present is my limited knowledge of Arabic, and I ask most heartily the prayers of my sisters in America, that I may soon have this gift of the Holy Spirit, so that I may tell with no uncertain sound of the love of God revealed in Christ. There are open doors, and the work is great. Who will come to the help of the Lord against the mighty?"

MEDICAL WORK.

Dr. Worrall reports as follows: Our work for the past quarter has been full of incident, and yet it is hard to choose what to tell. We have been wonderfully blessed with quietness and peace. There was no interference whatever from the authorities, and generally respectful attention from the patients, as they were spoken to from the Book of Life and about the Great Physician who healeth all our diseases. How often we have felt powerless to help, not for lack of medicines—for of these we have plenty—but from being unable to feed the patients, of whom many are sick simply from lack of food. Many are so poor that they cannot afford the penny to buy the bottle for medicines, claiming that the same sum will almost buy enough rice for a meal. Only yesterday a man about fifty years old came in front of the dispensary window and settled down there. As we allow no one to lounge there, we sent the servant to have the man move on; but, on investigation, found he was suffering from colic and starvation. A little medicine cured the pain, and a nickel helped for the time being his hunger. As these cases are quite numerous, a dollar does not reach very far. We have many, many poor children who come for treatment, and who need cod-liver oil and tonic medicines. One poor thing came with swollen throat and glands of the elbows, with cough and
fever, and, withal, oh, how dirty! The poor child was beyond any but temporary help; and how we wished we could give her food all the time as well as the tonic. What cod-liver oil we had in the dispensary we gave her; but in cases like these we cannot do much, from lack of funds. I wonder whether some of the boys and girls at home could not help these little ones of Busrah to food and cod-liver oil?

Many of the cases only a woman can treat in this country, so we were very glad to welcome in the field a fellow-worker, in Mrs. Zwemer, who vigorously took hold of the work with good success.

**BAHREIN.**

It was decided by the mission that the doctor was the one who could the most conveniently go and inspect the station at Bahrein; so on June 11th, with a colporteur and servant, we left Busrah. On arriving at Bahrein we found the work flourishing, under the care of Ibrahim Saled, who, during the past quarter has kept open a small dispensary for the poor. When it was noised about that the doctor from Busrah had arrived, many patients flocked to the dispensary for consultation.

The house contracted to be built on a four years' lease was in course of construction, but not quite completed, because of the absence of the owner, who had gone to Kateef. At the time of our visit, however, he had returned, and agreed that it would be finished in ten days after our departure. On account of the want of another assistant, the book sales were not being pushed as vigorously as they might have been. This is proved by the fact that the colporteur who accompanied us sold nearly seventy portions of Scripture during our seven days' stay. Our stay of a week upon the islands was delightful. We enjoyed the one donkey ride we took in the few spare hours at our command, and the walk one afternoon along a brook some mile and a half from the house. But we are very much afraid the enjoyment would cease on a longer stay, as there is no food except rice, chickens, eggs and milk obtainable. Fruits and many of the necessities of life, such as good bread and butter, can only be obtained from the ships which call at the islands every two weeks. Still, many people inhabit the islands, and we should joy to endure for Christ's sake. On June 25th we arrived at Busrah.
The following is a summary of the medical work during the quarter at Busrah:

No. patients recorded and treated, 1588: new cases, 738; old, 850; Mohammedans, 893; Christian sects, 376; Jews, Sabeans and Hindoos, 319; men, 705; women, 517; children, 366; medical cases, 1220; surgical 70; eye, 293.

**AMARA.**

The work at this out-station has gone on quietly, except for a little excitement and opposition during the visit of Mr. Zwemer in April. The sale of Scriptures has slightly increased, and more Moslems come to the Bible shop for conversation. Merad, with his family, afford the rude and ignorant people of this river settlement an example of a godly home, and we trust his words also will speak to them with equal power. Our soldier inquirer is faithful, earnest and diligent in studying the New Testament. Almost every week we receive a letter from him; asking for our continued prayers, and telling of what he has read.

May the Holy Spirit convince other hearts as well, and bring in the harvest-tide for the great day of the Lord.

S. M. Zwemer.

---

**BOOK SALES, SECOND QUARTER, 1896.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LANGUAGE</th>
<th>Bibles</th>
<th>Testaments</th>
<th>Portions</th>
<th>Scriptures</th>
<th>Religious</th>
<th>Educational</th>
<th>Total Books</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>332</td>
<td>346</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>477</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persian</td>
<td>..</td>
<td>..</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>..</td>
<td>..</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkish</td>
<td>..</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>..</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hebrew</td>
<td>..</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>..</td>
<td>..</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syriac</td>
<td>..</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>..</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>..</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>..</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>..</td>
<td>..</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arabic-Eng</td>
<td>..</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arabic-Turk</td>
<td>..</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>..</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armenian</td>
<td>..</td>
<td>..</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>..</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>449</td>
<td>476</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>743</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sales to Muslim... .. .. .. .. 378 .. .. ..
" Jews... .. .. .. .. 83 .. .. ..
" Christ'ns... .. .. .. .. 15 .. .. ..

Total... .. .. .. .. 476 .. .. ..
On my arrival at Muscat, shortly before the beginning of the quarter, I found that during a severe rain-storm my rented house had collapsed. The mud roof of the larger part of the building had fallen in, carrying everything with it, and books and other property were dug up out of the debris.

My first duty, therefore, was to find another suitable house. In this I succeeded in what afterward proved a providential way. The only house obtainable was one somewhat removed from the city and outside of its walls. A garden with a surrounding wall attached seemed of no use to me, but afterward proved a most suitable place for the eighteen freed slave boys received from H. M. Government for training and support. The house and compound was rented for a term of three years.

During the quarter the regular methods of work were followed.

1. Bible Work. The Bible shop in the midst of the bazaar was a daily reproach to the illiteracy of the Oman Arab, and a centre from which emanated, by sale of Scriptures, and personal witness, the knowledge of the Light of Life.

2. Bazaar Preaching was greatly hindered by the intense heat of the season; yet frequently during the week, and regularly on the
Sabbath, we were enabled to speak to such as would listen the evangel of God.

3. Touring. Both on account of the heat, and the employment of an excellent language teacher, giving opportunity for further language study and translation, no time was given to extensive tours. Besides the vicinity of Muscat, Jissa, a most interesting and peculiar place, a half-day's journey south of Muscat, was visited. This Jissa is a small harbor, entirely invisible from the sea, and owned by a wealthy Arab sheikh, whose family and retinue are the only inhabitants; and who, in this secluded place, with its road to the interior, avoid customs dues, and trade in slaves with a free hand.

4. The Printing Press. We were able this quarter to translate and print a controversial tract; not so much a specimen of printing or correct Arabic, as a proof that, in one place, at least, in Moslem lands, there is one Mission Press which can print anti-Islam literature without let or hindrance. The tract is a translation of Rev. Rouse's "Jesus or Mohammed; On Whom Will You Rely?" published in English by the Christian Literature Society, at Madras. We hope that our press, with one or two skilled assistants will prove useful in printing, especially such controversial literature as our or other missions desire to publish, and is elsewhere prohibited.

5. The Industrial School for Freed Slaves. We have before this given a special account of the capture and liberation of a number of slaves, eighteen boys of whom were given by the English Government to our mission for training and support. In such cases a bond is signed, promising support until eighteen years of age, and making transfer of such slaves impossible, except by permission of the British Consul at Muscat.

Fourteen slave boys were at first received; later this number was increased to eighteen. With two exceptions (one blind and one imbecile), the boys are all sterling youth, between the ages of six and twelve. Since their arrival they have been employed daily in basket-making, in which all are now proficient. The sale of baskets will assist in their support. Later, perhaps, a more profitable employment can be given them.

In the meantime they have been taught the English language. As a new language had to be taught them, they knowing the Swat-
uli, English was preferred to Arabic, in order to keep them separate from Muscat and Moslem influence.

An industrial training will give the boys a fair start in life, and we may hope they will also learn the way of life, and help to spread its knowledge in their lands.

During the quarter, although there were rumors of another attack by the Omanee Arabs, Muscat enjoyed peace.

In spite of the intense heat, good health was enjoyed by the missionary and his assistants.

P. J. Zwemer.