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QUARTERLY REPORT

FOR THE QUARTER ENDING OCT. 1, 1893.

The Lord has graciously preserved all of the Mission staff during the past three months from sickness and death while in the very midst of the cholera epidemic at Busrah and Bahrein. Although we naturally used every precaution possible we did not feel justified in leaving our work, and it so happened that two of us were at both places when the epidemic was at its worst. God's promises were bountifully fulfilled: "Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. A thousand shall fall at thy side and ten thousand at thy right hand, but it shall not come nigh thee."

THE WORK AT BUSRAH

was carried on under difficulties because of the cholera panic and the delay in moving into the new house. The building was nearly finished on August 1st, when we entered it, and was entirely completed September 1st. Rent has been paid according to contract for five years from August 1st, 1893, and there will, therefore, be no further expense on that account until August, 1898, as all repairs, etc., are to be paid by the contractor. The building is large, cool and comfortably arranged for our medical work in the future. Except a few minor changes, due to the obstinacy of the builders, it is according to the plans prepared by Mr. Cantine for the Mission, and is generally admired for its commodious and useful arrangement.

As soon as we entered the building the regular Sabbath services for Europeans were resumed, and we feel encouraged that they have been attended with more interest than formerly. The services on board of steamers and the Arabic Bible-class were also continued. At the beginning and again at the close
of the quarter the Lord's death was celebrated with our native
helpers and some few others.

The Bible-Shop in the Bazaar was open the entire quarter,
and under the efficient charge of our colporteur, Daoed Yusef, who
also spent some time in selling outside of the shop. Sales were
not as large as during the previous quarter, owing to the fact that
during the cholera nearly all business at Busrah was at a stand-
still, and that in September, as is usual, a large part of the Busrah
population leave for the neighboring gardens, and young and old
are busy packing the year's date harvest.

At the close of the quarter a second Bible and book depot
was opened, as an experiment, in Magam, the large and growing
quarter near the new Mission House. Magam, in fact, is the
future Busrah. New buildings are put up nearly every week and
one Jewish merchant has built a large new bazaar back from the
creek and toward the river. There is also a report that the present
Turkish Post Office and the new Ottoman Bank will be
transferred to Magam. All of which happily justifies the loca-
tion of our new house as the best possible for our work and for
the future, as well as for healthfulness.

COLPORTEURS AND TOURING.

Two visits were made to Mohammerah by the missionaries
from Busrah during the quarter, and we were more kindly re-
ceived than at former times. On the first visit an interesting
meeting was held with a large company of Moslems in a coffee
shop, and we read to them from the Scriptures. On the second
visit the sales of Scripture were very encouraging.

Naoom, a colporteur formerly in the employ of the Mission,
but who left us planning to go to America, failed to find a pas-
sage and was glad to be re-employed, went on a tour up the
river as far as Amara. He reports that the people were ready to
buy and his sales amounted to thirty krans (about $7.00) above
salary and expenses. Naoom also visited Abbo El Kaseeb, a
large village down the river half way to Mohammerah, and Sao,
the telegraph cable station at the head of the Gulf.

In September two Armenian Christians from the C. M. S.
Mission at Julfa, Persia, came to Mohammerah and desired to
work under our Mission. One of them was employed for two
weeks as a book agent at Mohammerah, and the other, George
Minas, is now at Bahrein in charge of the Book and Bible-Shop under supervision of S. M. Zwemer. The statistics of Busrah Bible work will follow this report. They are not on hand as I write.

OUR BROTHER IN BONDS.

An effort was again made to obtain freedom for Yakoob Yuhann, who is still in bonds for the Gospel. We have received letters from Dr. H. M. Sutton and also from the U. S. Consul at Bagdad, holding out hopes that Yakoob and his family would soon be allowed liberty to leave Turkish territory. In his letters to us he continues to show the same steadfast faith and forbearance in his great trial. His witness at Hillah can not be fruitless, and yet we long for the time when such an earnest worker shall occupy an active post in our Mission and openly preach the word of reconciliation to his former co-religionists.

THE WORK AT BAHREIN

was in charge of Peter J. Zwemer during July and August. Early in September S. M. Zwemer returned from Busrah, on the arrival of his brother, to Bahrein. James Cantine was at Bahrein during half of July and August, on his way to India on furlough, and returned to Bahrein September 28th. Thus we have all of us had experience of the new station.

The Book-Shop at Menameli village was open the entire quarter except when, with all other business in Bahrein, it was closed by order of Sheikh 'Isa, July 28, for two weeks, on account of the death of his son and the cholera epidemic. The latter was very severe both at Bahrein and on the Arabian coast for a period of three weeks. The total number of deaths is estimated by intelligent natives at over 5000 on the two islands. This estimate is not apparently extravagant, for sixty died in the household of the ruling Sheikh 'Isa alone, and one wealthy Moslem paid twelve men daily to bury the dead. It was impossible for the missionaries to do much in dealing out medicines; besides want of the best remedies, the people generally did not regard medicine of any use, and their doctrine of fatalism, in the case of pestilence, based on a special Koran text, forbade interference in such a visitation of God. The death of our house-servant and the strict quarantine against Bahrein by all steamers, made the situa-
tion anything but agreeable to the missionaries. In view of these circumstances it is not surprising that sales at the Bible-Shop decreased in a measure. A cholera panic in a Moslem town is always accompanied by a revival of formal religion, and at such seasons he who has least to do with Franks and their unbelieving books is nearest right.

The accompanying statement of sales for the quarter shows, however, a total of 125 books sold, of which 70 were Scriptures, and 80 per cent. were sold to Moslems. No touring outside of Menameh village was practicable on account of the severe heat.

Medical work was carried on as usual at the Mission House. During the quarter 109 new cases were treated (68 P. J. Z., 41 S. M. Z.), and a total of Rs. 7-6 received from patients, excluding gifts in kind.

There was no trouble with the Pharisees except an order not to play our baby-organ during Moslem prayer time, to which we have cheerfully complied. Just at the close of the quarter there was a request sent in to the British Resident's agent that the Lord's Prayer in Arabic, hanging in our shop, be taken down, because the children were reading it! Mr. Cantine, being at Bahrein, declined to take it down, and since then there has been nothing said about it.

Such petty complaints prove that the leading Moslems now look upon our work as fixed, and this is encouraging. It is indeed a very remarkable evidence of Divine favor that ever since we have entered Bahrein the shop has been rented to us by the Chief Moslem Kadhi of the island, although he will not rent it except month by month, and by verbal agreement. Albeit unbusinesslike, we pray that nothing may upset the present arrangement, as the location of our shop is the best possible. It is some satisfaction, too, to think that property which is "Wakf," or leased to perpetual interest in favor of Islam, is used by us to sell the Word of God!

The Summer's experience at Bahrein has been of value. We now know that the heat there does not, as generally supposed, exceed that at Busrah, and if we are able to obtain more comfortable quarters for next year it will be entirely possible to work on the islands, all the year round, as at Busrah. A larger and more comfortable house is therefore a necessity; but it is
hard to obtain. Since January last we have occupied a small upper room over a warehouse, facing a mosque and next to a large coffee shop. In Winter-rain season it is too cold for comfort, and in Summer, although open to sea breezes, it is too near the dyers' quarter and the coffee shop, whence all the odors of Oriental filth proceed. On the other hand it is a good location for work, being near the bazaar and in the very midst of the people.

Thus far our efforts to obtain larger and better quarters have been unsuccessful.

The Mission has purchased a tent, in accordance with previous reports, for use in touring on and out from Bahrein islands. By this means all the island villages can be visited and a stay made among the people.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES CANTINE,
S. M. ZWEMER,

BAHREIN, October 23, 1893.

P. J. ZWEMER.
SALES IN BIBLE-SHOP, BAHREIN, JULY-SEPT., 1893.

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<td>70</td>
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Percentage of Sales to Muslims: 80 per cent.

" " Christians, 16 " —on steamers, etc.

" " Hindus... 4 "

VALUE OF SALES IN RUPEES.

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About $16.50.