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Christian converts, and prays weekly throughout its mosques that 'the wives and children of the infidel Christian may be left widows and fatherless and his property fall into the hands of the true believer,'” he proceeded to affirm that Islam is a “religion which has no new message of life, has taught no new doctrine of hope or life to the human family; . . . has given no inspiration to a new service to mankind; has preached no new great truth; . . . has always tended to decline; has retarded, polluted, destroyed the manhood and corrupted the purer instincts of every nation it has touched; has blasted womanhood and destroyed the innocence of childhood.” Anyone who desires a really authoritative, as distinct from an imaginative, picture of Mohammedanism, should procure “The Reproach of Islam,” by the Rev. W. H. T. Gairdner, a C.M.S. missionary in Egypt. It is written for the use of mission study-circles, but the general reader also will gain profit from its perusal.



The Bible at Work.

BY THE REV. W. FISHER, M.A.

VERY encouraging news comes from the Far East. During the nine months ending September 30 the Bible Society's circulation in China amounted to 1,450,000 copies, showing an increase of 378,000 copies over the corresponding period last year. Korea likewise is manifesting exceptional demands and opportunities for colportage, which, taken in connection with late religious movements, are both significant and encouraging.



In an intensely interesting address given at the Bible House, Mrs. Fisher, of Uganda, made some noteworthy statements. “Uganda,” she said, “is practically the story of the progress of the Bible. It has been called the miracle of modern missions. . . . The reason is that the Word of God has been sent throughout the length and breadth of the country, and has taken root and is bringing forth fruit a hundredfold. . . . The first fifteen years there were only three or four hundred conversions—that is, until the time the people had the Bible in their own language—but since then the numbers have increased to over 70,000, and we might say that Uganda has been converted and is a Christian land. . . . All the little heathen temples which were to be found outside each man's house have been swept away, and now there are about 1,200 churches in their place. The heathen priests have had to go forth into the mountains or remote villages. . . . All the charms have been burned in public, and now in the homes of the people we find the charm of the living God.”



Mrs. Fisher also gave many striking illustrations of the permeation and power of the Scriptures. “Very often in the out-of-the-way villages will be

found a lad who went into the capital and learnt his letters, and has returned and taught the little community to read. . . . In this way the Bible is spread throughout the whole country. If you go to the borders of Pigmyland, you will find them with their reading-sheets and New Testaments; into the cannibal country, where they are still in their cannibalism, you will find some reading the Word of God." The Book still sells freely, and Monday, from 6 a.m., is a particularly busy time, when the teachers bring in their various orders. "Some want a Bible, so send a goat. Others want a 'chicken Matthew'—that is to say, they want a Gospel of St. Matthew, and will give a chicken for it. . . . Others say they will be perfectly willing to do any work if we will only give them a Bible. Coming home last December, there were two men in our caravan who each carried a box of 65 pounds a distance of 135 miles simply to earn a Bible." In common with others, she sees coming danger and difficulty in revived heathenism, but a barrier for the Church in Uganda in its possession of and attachment to the Bible.



A view of the colporteur, and one capable of much enlargement, stands out in the following incident. A Chinese colporteur in the P'ingfan district was accused of serving foreigners. "I then explained the contents of the books I sold, and kept at it until dark. The official became friendly, and invited me to stay with him; but a relative came in who would not hear of my remaining. 'All right,' I said; 'my Heavenly Father knows,' and I left. Going through the yard, I saw a small house, and asked if I might stay there. I was told it was a pigsty. 'Never mind,' I said; so I stayed there and slept in the straw with the pigs and dogs, and had a warm night! Next morning I sold about 200 cash worth of books."



The increasingly polyglot character of Canadian immigration is illustrated by the fact that the Scriptures have been asked for in eighty languages. These have all been supplied by the Bible Society. Since, by the combined utterance of all the Churches, the Gospel is preached in about twenty languages only, there are some sixty in which there is practically no other preacher but the Book. Moreover, the immigrant brings not only foreign nationality, but in thought and practice, conceptions of marriage, family life, and Sabbath observance in violent opposition to those of the Canadian. Eventually other efforts and other influences may work counteraction, and such evils may not effect their full social and moral disorder. In the meantime, counteraction lies almost entirely with the Book.



Mr. Larson, a sub-agent of the Bible Society, who has lately visited London and is now returning to his work in Mongolia, is a hero in plain clothes, and illustrates the hardihood, adventure, and romance that can belong to the circulation of Scriptures. Mongolia has an area of 1,367,000 square miles, mostly grass plains or desert, a population of about 2,500,000 people, and very few missionaries. Mr. Larson's last effort was a tour that

occupied sixteen months. His caravan consisted of five or six camels, three servants, and a colporteur. Had his object been a North or South Pole, the same experiences had filled long columns of many newspapers. He found the people hospitable but ignorant. A great opportunity was the schools, which are private ventures. The teachers have no Mongolian school-books, so he made a special effort to circulate Gospels among them and their pupils. These form their primers, and are the only printed books within reach of these Mongolian schools. Under such circumstances, the 12,500 Gospels distributed during the tour mean not only a remarkable achievement, but certain preparation for a day to come.



Literary Notes.

IT is right that we should call the reader's attention to an excellent annual, entitled "The Odd Volume," seeing that it concerns the world of books. This "Odd Volume" was published for the first time last year, and met with a gratifying success, although it is hoped that the new issue will have even a greater success. It certainly deserves to be very popular. Its first editor—and a very capable one he proved to be—was Mr. Matz, the well-known Dickens authority, and editor of that excellent little monthly, *The Dickensian*. It is always a thankless task to inaugurate a magazine, but Mr. Matz was highly successful. The editor of this year's volume is Mr. John G. Wilson, who hails from over the Border, and knows most of the things worth knowing about books. He has now joined the well-known City booksellers, Messrs. Jones and Evans. Previous to that he had been connected with the publishing house of Constable, and was for many years also connected with the well-known Glasgow firm of publishers and booksellers, Messrs. J. Smith and Son. "The Odd Volume" has an object—a distinct and worthy one. It is issued on behalf of the funds of the National Book Trade Provident Society, which represents the booksellers throughout the British Isles. It was issued a day or two back. The literary contents are made up of original stories and poems by many of the leading younger writers of the day, with here and there something from the pen of a master hand. The list is an imposing one; but then there are also many beautiful pictures in colour and in black and white. It should commend itself to every book-lover, especially in view of the fact that the net profits are paid into the society mentioned above. The price is one shilling net.



From Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton comes an interesting and important diary of travelling experiences by Professor Sir William Ramsay, entitled "Constantinople and Turkey, 1909." There is a charm about Sir William's writings which distinguishes them from many of our modern books, and his subject-matter is usually intensely interesting. The author, accompanied by his wife and their eldest daughter, went to Constantinople in company with the advance guard of the Army of Liberty. They lived in the capital for