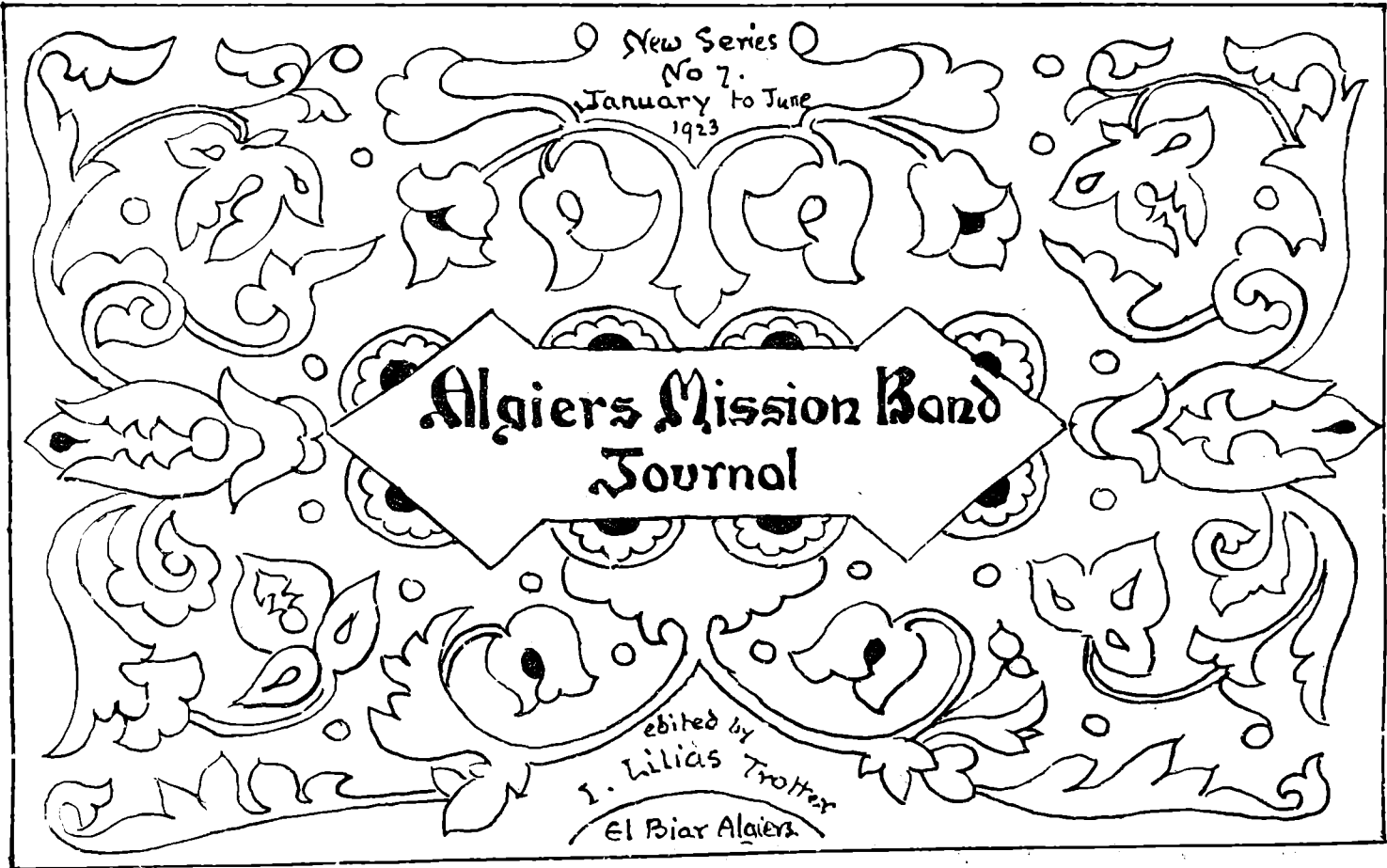


New Series
No 7.
January to June
1923

**Algiers Mission Band
Journal**

Edited by
I. Liliás Trotter
El Biar Algiers



Jan. The Committee + the Rally have been short this week. There was an intensity about them, however, that made them mean more than usual. With one accord, + without premeditation, we seemed swung out of our ruts toward "The sky line where the great roads go down" . . . + that in a very literal sense, for the three great roads that go down into the darkness, were the channels of our longing over the inland places - one along the Moroccan frontier to Figuig, the second through central Algeria to the Beni Mzab (both new ground), the third along the well-known path that draws us again + again to Tougourt + Tolga in the south of the Constantine province. For each path there was a pair ready + eager. Joyfully we traced the routes together on the map, + considered the details, with the conviction that Gods Hand was in it. And we settled to send out a circular to call for a prayer-reinforcing.

13 Tozeur bookshop stands evolved out of the tobacconist's den which needed so much prayer to evict it peaceably from under our roof, + Mr. Theobald + Amar have had numbers of men + boys curious to see what it might contain.

Better still; A. Krebs tells of another lad on whom prayer should focus. "Dimples" cousin seems truly in earnest. One night after having been here to read, + when he as much as said, he was saved, he had a dream. He went down to the river to wash his shirt, which was filthy beyond description, + found the river turned to blood: he did not know what to do, but a man standing in the middle of the river said: "Give me your shirt + I will wash it."

"he gave it him + it was returned shining white. Ali said himself - "That means my heart cleansed by the Blood of Christ. There is something very earnest + wistful about him.

"A friend of the "4 hours" has been coming. He was at first difficult, almost mocking. . + then one day he came alone. He was moved by the word "as I have hardly ever seen. Since that day he has never been back, but I have reason to know that a struggle is going on, + he wants to come, but dare not."

25 The signs are not lacking that the Buckenham's step in shutting themselves away alone at Colea, to sink or swim, has been the right one for them. "Find out the thing you cannot do, + go + do it" is a good motto, + very like the blindfold faith of this venture! Faith + friendliness are miring a way across barriers of language, nationality + creed. Through talks with wayside groups M^{rs} Buckenham gets invitations for his "house" to go + visit their "houses", + her list of those open shows longer + longer when one + another, from Algiers for a week-end to help in following them up. And with some precaution, to avoid annoyance to neighbours with sensitive ears, boys are being admitted to their first classes in the half underground out-house which is as yet, the only place for them: + girls begin.

31 Mimoun is going through a festing time. Ever since his baptism the slow development of his nature has taken a spring forward, bringing him from a back-

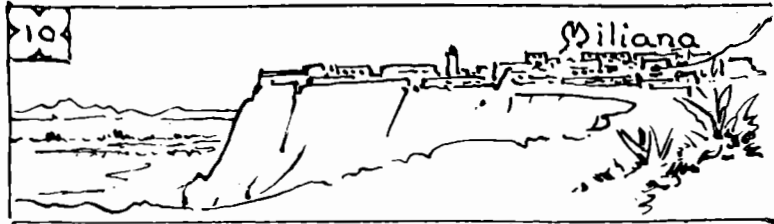


I never can draw portraits - but this is the type of student boys like Ali. The long tassel marks a Tunisian.

goes

ward led into a sensible + God reliant man. He has been needing that God-reliance of late, He was summoned off to his mountain hut by the news that his uncle was dead, + his father dying, + found on his arrival a little niece dead too, + all the other eight inmates lying unconscious. He told us on his return how he had stood there in helplessness, + asked God to shew him what to do, for they were out of reach for any doctor. He passed the night going from one to another, giving them water, + in the morning by degrees they came to themselves, + he told them that God had sent him to their help. And so indeed He had, for he nursed them all back to life, + preached Christ to them in his simple way. He has been back several days, + it looks as if he would have his own battle to fight now, for his temperature has begun rising:

✠ The "4 hours" has returned from Miliana with Houria + their little son - a magnificent baby, as dusky as his father, with eyes like sloes. Now that he has deposited them in our care, his mind goes off again, we can see, to the Djerd: it may be that the fact that Si Amar + Si Ali are still there has caused the wave of home-sickness to gather + break. We do not feel that we should hold him back, though the risks are great - for life here is too easy, going to be healthful to a nature like his, prone to self-indulgence. And if he is faithful down there, he may help this friend of his, Si Taher, who goes pathetically backwards + forwards before the Mission House door, so we hear from Mr. Theobald, not daring to enter. So we are leaving the thought to ripen or to wither, as time may shew.



In Miliana a heavy cloud has risen. For some months a girl named Fatima, the brightest & sweetest of the girl converts there, has seemed dull & "distracted", & now she has fallen suddenly under the

power of a sorceress woman, apparently sent by her brother to connive at her separation from us, with a view to furthering her marriage with one or other of the well-to-do Moslems with whom he is always trying to arrange a match for her. She absolutely refuses all intercourse with M. Crautoff & I. Nash, saying "I must do what this woman tells me: she can read the very thoughts of my heart."

26 A day or two after my last entry about Mimoun, our fears were realized, & he was down with typhus. His last words as they took him off to the fever hospital were "I want to live to see Kacete baptized." The crisis is through now, & without complications, though it proved a severe case.

Anent Kacete - or rather Kasid as the name is in his case, he is an inmate of the household not yet mentioned - a convert lad from the Kabyle station at Tiziouzou, lank & clever, the only support of a tribe of small brothers & sisters. It seemed a pity to let him drift off to France, so he has been with us since November, struggling to penetrate the Semitic brain of the "4 hours" with the rules of French grammar, while studying himself for an examination that he hopes may bring him a livelihood.

March 9
35 years out here close today— half a life-time - with Thanksgiving to the "God of patience" who has borne with their negligences + ignorances, + has found a way for His grace + power althwart them all. . . . The threefold prayer of early days comes back to memory. First that the doors might be opened: that is answered already above all we could ask or think: then that hearts might be opened, + that is coming— the attitude has swept round from apathy to hostility, + from hostility to a large measure of welcome: next + last that the heavens may be opened— when that is granted, the harvest will come. I read a passage the other day that spoke of "the intense value of a collective, corporate blessing as a vehicle for the working of the Holy Ghost": . . . That is where our need lies now. Who will help bring down its supply from the same hand that has granted the open doors + the open hearts?



The Tozeur war zone has had as usual its full share of difficulty. V. Wood fell ill soon after Christmas, + a long time of suffering has ended in her having to return under the care of A. Krebs + to go back to England to recruit, leaving the Theobalds alone, to hold on a bit longer.

The book-shop + the "Nicodemus room" have been in full use, though the sales have been small. Amar has done his part faithfully in his gruff way. . . This is something to be thankful for it is his native town, where his family has held a good position for generations, + jeers have been plentiful

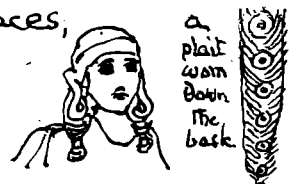
I had hoped to go down there with my brother + sister, who to my great joy, have just come out on a visit. That slips out of focus with these happenings, + another plan clears that may mean more for Gods kingdom. It is on this wise.

S. Perkin + A. Mc Ilroy were the first to start on the southern trek, + these last days see them back. Their first bit was among the villages of the desert round Touggourt +



Temacün, standoff at first, yielding at last to the twin keys of love + prayer. Then Tolga had its day; + the entrance among the women there was marked. Just at the last they had the offer of renting a native house in the outskirts. The impression grows that we should go down + secure it. Meantime my dear people are spending their energies in trying to get into working order an old zincograph machine that was given us long ago + proved past our mastering. It will be invaluable if they succeed.

And now news is beginning to come from M. Ridley + K. Butler in their exploration of the villages down the Morocco border. - wild untouched places, with crumbling mud houses, lit by queer airshafts up the centre. - such dear people - such a welcome - such masses everywhere of jewels on the women, + wonderful + weird hair-dressings, braided



+ twisted into it jewels + rings of all descriptions". A vivid sense that our two loved them - a dim dawn of the story of the heavenly love of which they came to tell - that was, probably all that reached the women + girls in this their first hearing. But among the men a first hearing means as a rule readiness to listen + eagerness to buy, ~~and~~ their stock was all cleared off. - + the wearing of links with those of other places has given confidence that strangers could not otherwise hope to win so quickly. - + a "come back" has sounded many a time out in that ocean of palm-forest.

22 The brothers + their wives are safely back from Tozeur, with, as far as it appears, a good record behind them: + Mimoun is discharged from the hospital, + has been home to report himself. This has brought to an end a complication that has threatened his future in the form of a raw little peasant girl of 12 or 13 who had been chosen by his father, notwithstanding our protest, to be his wife. Now, in recognition of all that he has been to them, his father has given him the rare privilege of deciding for himself, + he wishes us to go forward in the only direction where we see light - i.e. the M.E.C. Home in Constantine, where, 3 or 4 years ago, they received for us a famine orphan from Pelizane, Kharoufa by name. She is of his own station - good-tempered + not too clever. This last is a recommendation in his eyes, for no amount of pains have brought him beyond his alphabet: + an orphan is considered most desirable, as having no one to interfere with her! Best of all she has taken her stand for Christ. I hope to see her on the way through to Tolga, at the end of the week.



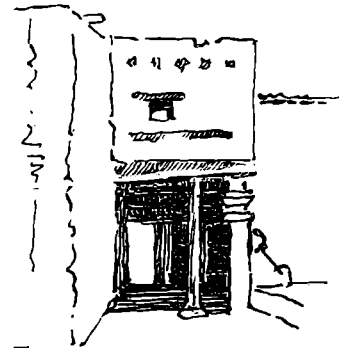
Today, March 29, came the wonderful moment of passing back for the first time through the "gate" of El Kantara, that stands between the table land above, + the first oasis below. Twenty-one years ago, B. Howarth + I went up through it with the desert definitely closed behind us, as far as earthly authority went. Now, by God's wonderful working, we have the freedom to go, or stay where we will. By faith we took it then: by faith we hold it now: Praise be to His Name.



Today sees us within the mud walls of this dear Talga. It touches one to see how the fortnight that we had here in 1900 + the 3 or 4 weeks in 1902 are remembered still. Every where there are hands stretched in welcome - faint hands of old men who were then in their prime: strong brown hands of men who were but boys when we saw them last. The purpose of our visit has already got abroad, + we hear only the one word "Come".



It was the same in Lichana, the neighbouring village where we went today: the first sentence in Arabic brought the men around, + the more when it got wind "she knows about the Brotherhoods + the people of the Road". . . . It is these "People of the Road" as the Moslem Mystics term themselves, who form part of the attraction down here. to us, for all around in these regions their Brotherhoods hold sway, + some of us are feeling strongly the need of getting into touch with them, for one cannot doubt that there are those who are truly seeking God amid the fanciful mazes of their



A Talga Street.

introspection. Oh for men to come to their help from the lands at home - men who are Christian mystics in the deepest sense, by the indwelling life of the Son of God.

① Today brought the crowning joy of running to earth at last the people concerned in letting the house of which S. Perkin + A. M^r: Ilroy had heard, + getting a sight of it. That was a beautiful half hour, for though further from the village than we should have chosen, in an outlying hamlet, it was as truly built for our needs as any other house that God has given, + that is saying much: + it is solid + clean! So the matter was clinched, then + there.

⑬ That being done, we came on to Touggourt for the days that remain. As usual, the place was interesting but hard - all but one bit of it, in which another Brotherhood link was started. For passing a group of men at the gateway of a Zaouia, one of them caught sight of a native



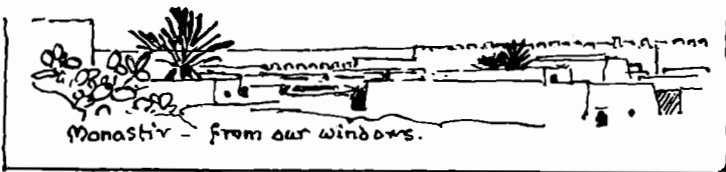
bound Arabic Bible that I was carrying, + asked what it was. A dozen or more of the student lads + men came round + quickly cleared my bag of every tract + book it contained, + invited me up to see their library, begging for more books to be sent. They belong to an ancient fraternity of widespread influence + power. Pray for them, + specially for the eagerfaced teacher who first hailed me. It has been worth coming along here for all those books may mean if they are endynamited by prayer.

⑮ Back again in Dar Maama. "Satan has walled me round, hedged me in, but thank God he cannot roof me over!" - that quotation came in one of the letters of the last mail, + brings an "Amen" out of the stifling atmosphere of Ramadhan. The Tazewr brothers took their wives home on a visit on their return north, + have not come back by the date

that we had set them: + we fear another trap laid for them. The "4 hours" is also away still; + though his letters sound all right, + speak of men coming to read with him, we fear the Ramadhan test, + its temptation to take cover.

May's

For all that, this battle-month brings as usual special bits of cheer. In its very midst we hear that the Monastir flat has come to its own at last: for by now the Theobalds will have settled in for the very purpose in view when we took it - or rather the double purpose - that of serving as a place for language study when Tozeur has to close down for the heat, + as a centre for colportage in the thickly populated district inland.



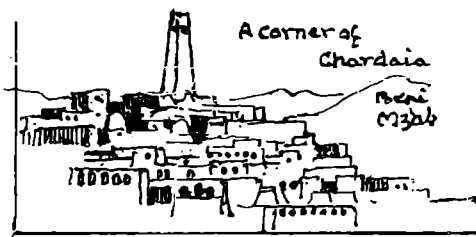
Then Colea passed yesterday out of its probation stage into that of an outstation, for its openings + its spirit of hearing deserve this -- retrieval again, for we can remember the day when the first missionaries who attempted colportage there were stoned through the streets. Lastly a new + far-reaching beginning has just been started by the M. E. C. having opened the first classes of a "Bible Institute" of the future for the training of converts. Our two have got free of Cherchelle (though they had to leave their wives behind there) + have been admitted to these classes. So has Kacid the Kabyle lab, with the prospect in his case, of being received for full training for their mission.

14

Fresh hopes in the miracle-power of God's silent working spring up through an article in the "Moslem World" recounting the very same movement in an unnamed

corner of the lands of Islam as moved us to such joy in Sunder Singh's story last autumn - the knitting together of groups of enquirers + secret believers, recognised by each other + meeting in the name of Jesus, though as yet no impulse to declare themselves seems to have come. Surely it is the shaking of the vision of old, + the bones coming together "bone to his bone", waiting for the breath from the four winds!

The last tournée down south has closed, + S. Perkin + M. Grantoff (who had planned it) are back from their reconnaissance among the closely shut towns of the confederation of the Beni Mzab - hardest of the three journeys south, as we felt it would be from what we know of its traders who come to the coast - taciturn + unresponsive looking, with never a woman or girl brought along to make a bit of home life, only boys, the miniature of themselves, stolid + impassive. Books were sold + talks were held, + they have had their "witness" to the truth, though access to their families was hard to win. Their very towns have a standoff look about them.



Into the Friday prayer-meeting this morning came a very lank + weary looking "4 hours" - his brown face tanned to coffee colour. It was not till next day that he revived enough to tell his story - a long story of his home difficulties + temptations, + his hopes over his 6 "disciples" as he calls them, + his friend Si Tahar. More than ever we feel that with much that is un-

satisfactory about him, he is a soul that must be prayed through to God's end.

This has been rather a geographical sort of journal, + I must not go on to tell of the springs openings away on the hills.. They were all named in the leaflet of the spring & its gateways, except I think Teniet, which has again proved worthy of a rented room + a months steady working with daily classes for the children, + a bookshop for the men in the late afternoon.

And all the time the regular Station work has been going on with "patient continuance in well doing". Last autumn's re-inforcements for Algiers had already begun to ease the pressure there though we try hard to keep language study in its right place for newcomers, + Blida, crowded out for class room, has been able, by a gift from America, to double its size, or nearly so, + to build on, at the other end of "the House of the Well" a beautiful room all ready for the third worker that they so sorely need.

30 Their class-year there ends with a big sorrow. On the very day of the prizegiving little Khadoudja, the dearest + sweetest of the inner circle of the children, was sent out of this world in a moment through a reckless motor... sent we cannot doubt, up to the Good Shepherd whose name she had learnt to know + love as an inmate of the Mission House before ever the shadow of Islam fell across her path.

At Belcourt as in Blida the chief onward move of the year has been among the boys. At Blida many of them used to come as small kindergarten creatures in company with their elder sisters, + are now, as school-boys, the nucleus of a thriving class of their own. In Belcourt it is a new venture, with the raw material of the neighbour.

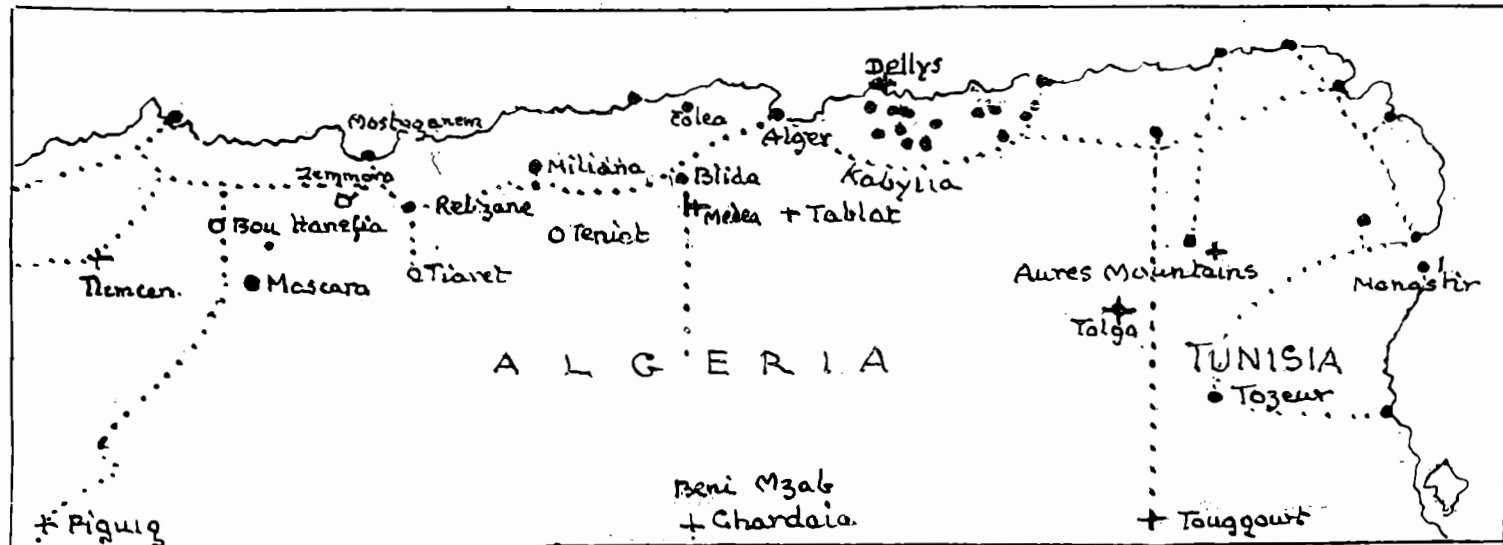
hood. a growing neighbourhood, where fresh treasure. Frove in the way of children is always coming into M. Watling's hands. She writes ... "Such a dear group in last night for our tiny evening prayers + a last look at our Lord loving the children. Just a tumbling bundle of small girls + boys. I wish you could have watched the look on the naughtiest one's face - all the terrible "sophisticatedness of her 7 years had gone for the moment - it was just brooding childhood. At last "came out." He does love the children" + then they scampered down again to the evil homes ... Today "again the same dear holy feel of a night nursery in England - It must come from the watch. "ing angels I think .. for this windswept shelf could not produce it with 16 pickles of boys wait. "ing till Touhara + I had the house straight - + 7 to 8 a.m. is a long wait!"

Relizane's troubles thicken around the band of little housemaidens who have become so dear to them .. in England they would be in the first flush of girlhood, for they average in age 14 or 15. - out here the shadow of enforced marriage is gathering over one after another - one of them has just been taken from them + married that same day - neither they nor the child knowing anything about it beforehand - though for a week before she had looked ill + white + was very silent; probably ~~knowing~~ ^{fearing} that it was in the wind. She was sold for about £1.15 to a Moroccan man.

And so the lights + shadows chase each other to the end of this half year's story. One more journey into the unreached places has come with its close-taken by Mons Cook + a fellow missionary from Kabylia into the Aures Mountains north of Biskra - whose race - chawia by name, belong to the Berbers, + carry still faint memories of the Christian days before the Moslems in-

vasion. I remember when we touched their borders long ago, we found that they kept a feast to our Lord at the winter solstice that was evidently a relic of Christmas - It is time that He whom they ignorantly worship should be declared to them!

It is time - God-given time - God-given opportunity - that is placed in our hands just now. How long it will last is hid from us. May we redeem it as those who must give account!



Sketch - map of this 10 years prayer centres

- A.M.B. Stations (Named)
- " " " " outstations + temporary posts -
- ⊕ chief points visited
- (un(n)amed) stations of other Missions.

Advisory Council

This is being replaced by Referees in England, America + France. The completed list will appear in the next Journal.

Algerian Mission Band America

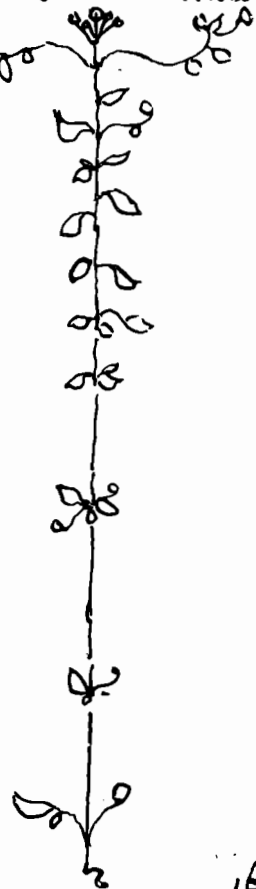
Mrs J. A. Walker. Sec.
2300 Dexter St. Denver. Col.

Sec. for Prayer Helpers.

Mrs J. H. Smeeton. 2 Rue du Croissant - Algiers
Treasurer

Miss Currie. Dar Naama
El Biar. Algiers.

Algiers Mission Band



Location of workers - Algiers.

- (1) Dar Naama. El Biar
I. L. Trotter
S. Perkin
A Kemp.
M + Mrs Pierre Nicoud
M + Mrs Inery. S. Service.
- (2) 2 Rue du Croissant
A Mrs Ilroy
A Butticaz
Mrs Smeeton
I. Sheach. S. Service
- (3) Beit Naama
A. Farmer
J. Gray
- (4) Belcourt
M. Watling
St Eugene.
Mons le Pasteur
+ Mrs Cook.
Colea
Mrs + Mrs Buskenham
Blida
F. K. Currie
M. Roche
Miliana
M D Grantoff.
I. Nash

Spring - 1923

- Relizane
M. Ridley
K. Butler
Substations
Zemmora
Tiaret
Mascara
F. H. Freeman -
Senor & Senora
Soler -
F. Hammon -
(Mission Helper)
Sub. Stations
Bou Hanefia
Mastaganem
A. Gayral
- Tozeur
A. Krebs
V. Wood
Mrs + Mrs Theobald
- Monastir
Summer Station:
Mrs + Mrs Theobald