

Message from Algiers
to the Members of the
World's Fifth Sunday
School Convention,
1907.

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Dear Friends,

As you pass along our North African shore we send you a call for sympathy and prayer. If, all the days that the coast-line is in view, you hold the land and its missionaries before God, you will leave a track of light and blessing behind you.

And as this is the one port of a Moslem Country at which you will touch,

we want to give you a special welcome,

through such delegates as may be chosen to represent you.

We have not much for you to see, for of all the coast Algeria is the part most curtailed as regards such aids to the work as Mission Hospitals or Schools, these being disallowed under French law. We are therefore shut up to the simplest and most direct forms of evangelization. Colportage and itineration, book depots classes, meetings, visiting cafés where the men congregate, and the prison-like houses where the women are shut up. These are the means that lie open to us, and even for these we have had, in some instances, a hard fight.

We are not sorry for our limitations ; they help us to keep the one aim of soul-winning

clear-cut before us; but they prevent our having the ordinary outworks of a Mission Station to show you.

And even as regards what we have in hand, all is as yet in the initial stage. You have the chance of seeing things at their first beginning. It is barely 25 years since the country was opened to Christian effort, and

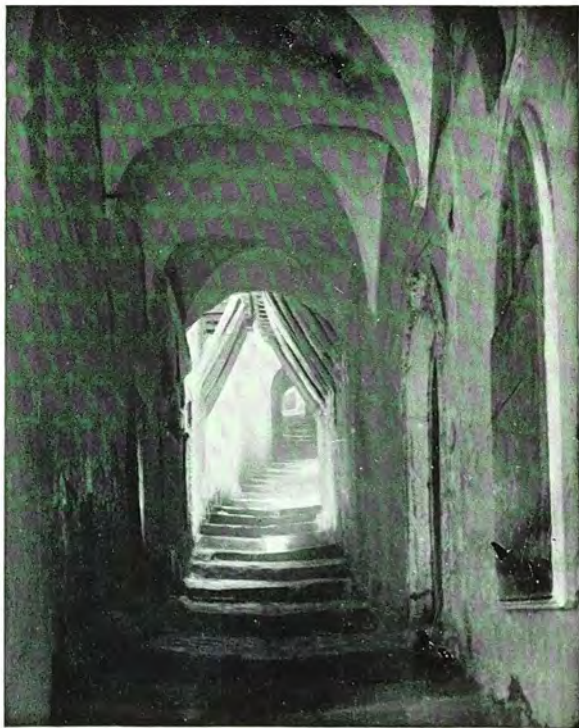
25 years in a Moslem Land

counts for something like a tenth of its value elsewhere. Islam means, as you know, the hardest of all hard fields, and pioneering with its experiments and apparent failures, its fight against suspicion and prejudice, its rough work of ploughing, and its seeming waste work of sowing, is prolonged, it may be, in proportion to its hardness. We are glad to have shared these things. We count it an honour to have been sent to outpost duty; but it is not a vocation in which visible results predominate. They are coming; they are beginning; you can help, if you take us on your hearts, to bring them into fact.

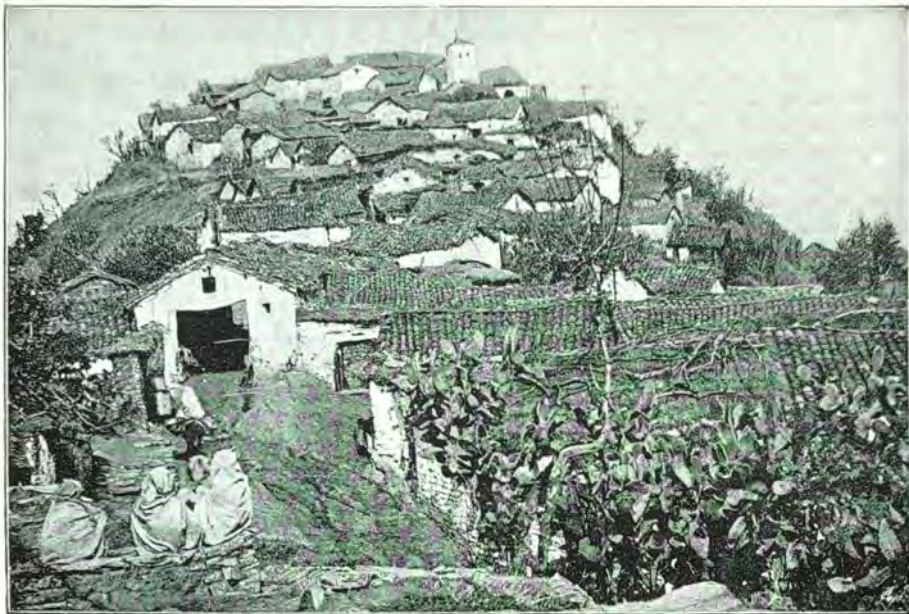
It may be that it is all the tougher work, that the land stands as a huge backslider. It has slipped from under God's touch, back into the grasp of the powers of darkness. In the early Christian age, Christ was confessed throughout the country; there are records of

580 Bishoprics along the coast

from Cyrene to the Atlantic in the 3rd century. Then life died down, and the invasion of Islam swept out every trace of Christianity. Raymond Lull, the pioneer of Moslem Missions, fought single-handed to raise the standard of Christ in the 13th century, and met his martyr's death. Since then all has been darkness, and only in 1881 the glimmer of dawn returned. Slowly a little band of Christ's soldiers has gathered since then. They stand now as follows :



Rue de la Mer Rouge, Algiers.



The Kabyle Village of El Masloub.



Children in the Sahara.



Members of the Porter Boys' Class, Tunis.

In Morocco, to a population of about 8 million natives,

North Africa Mission ...	28
South Morocco Mission	13
Central Morocco Mission	4
Kansas Gospel Union	12
	—
	57

In Algeria, to a population of about $4\frac{1}{2}$ million natives,

North Africa Mission	21
Brethren's Mission ...	8
French Methodist Mission	7
Algiers Mission Band	11
	—
	48

In Tunisia and Tripoli, to a population of about 3 million natives.

North Africa Mission	29
Independent Workers Algeria and Tunisia	12
	—
	41

By far the best-worked field in Algeria is the Kabyle race, the aborigines of the country. The proportion of missionaries to the Kabyles is, roughly speaking, 1 to 24,000 (a fairly large parish all the same!), and it is among the Kabyles that the largest proportion of converts has been granted. Among the Algerian Arabs the proportion is more like 1 to 200,000. Try and realize what this means.

And yet, handicapped as we are in these and many other ways, God's grace is triumphing, and slowly in almost every Mission Station, the first knot of converts is gathering—the dearer, perhaps, to the Lord's heart from being his first-fruits from the hardest of fields. And you, who love the children, would be full of hope with us over the bands of boys and

girls within reach of the Good Shepherd's outstretched hands.

* * * *

And now for our meeting of May 9th & 10th The best place will be, we think, in the Mission House of our little Mission Band, for it is a native house and roomy. We would arrange an informal reception each day, on which you could meet face to face such missionaries as are within reach, and get into touch with them. We would also get a few of the natives to come. You should see them make their national dish of couscous, and they should serve you with native coffee and sweetmeats. Fifty or sixty of your delegates will, I fear, be all we should have room for at a time, but we would gladly receive two relays each day, if your time in port allows.

And God, who needs such a small fulcrum for His mighty lever can do much with our short hour of meeting. We pray that He will be there and will plead His own cause of Mission Work as you set foot on His great dark Africa, and that He will give you and us the clue for interweaving it with the cause committed to you. Thus you will share the hard fight and the coming victory.

Yours on behalf of our fellow missionaries,

E. Crandall

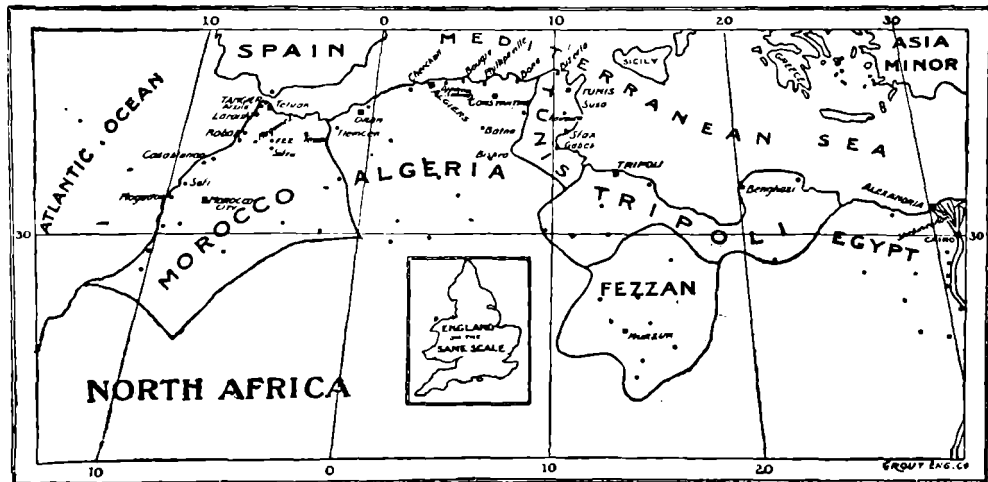
North Africa
Mission.

J. Liles Trotter

Algiers Mission
Band.

NORTH AFRICA consists of . . .

MOROCCO, ALGERIA, TUNIS, TRIPOLI, EGYPT, and the SAHARA,
and has a Mohammedan population of over 20,000,000.



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