

The North Africa Mission.



Third Edition.

THE WORK OF THE N.A.M.

WHY the N.A.M. is at work.

North Africa, with its millions of souls sunk in ignorance and wickedness, **NEEDS** Christ. Surely those to whom the Gospel has come, not "in word only but also in power," should "sound out" the Word of the Lord in these regions where Christ is not named—where the false prophet exercises his baleful sway over the hearts and lives of millions. The commission of the Lord Jesus embraces within its scope the peoples of North Africa; and with their Lord's promise ringing in their ears and strengthening their hearts, His servants have gone out in His name, depending on His promise and on the working of the Holy Spirit to quicken dead souls and bring out, even from among these poor bigoted Moslems, a people for His praise.

THE PEOPLES among whom the N.A.M. is at work

The main work of the Mission is the evangelisation of the Mohammedan population, though the Jews are not forgotten, and the French, Spanish and Italian Roman Catholics are also cared for, a Spanish Church having been formed in Tangier and an Italian Church in Tunis.

The following table will give a rough idea of the inhabitants of the countries of North Africa:—

			Including
MOROCCO	*3,000,000	...	2,800,000 Moslems
ALGERIA	6,000,000	...	5,000,000 ..
TUNISIA	2,000,000	...	1,750,000 ..
TRIPOLI	*1,350,000	...	1,250,000 ..
EGYPT	12,000,000	...	11,000,000 ..

* Estimated.

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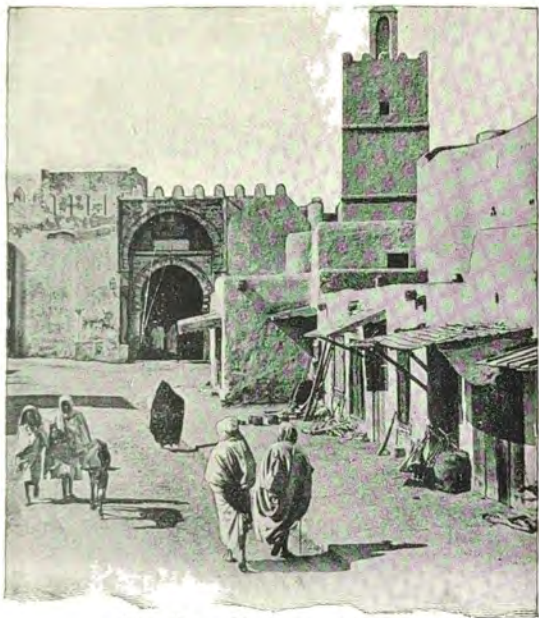
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1917.



City Gate, Kairouan, Tunisia.

THE North Africa Mission.

Sphere of N.A.M. Northern Africa is an immense stretch of country extending from the Atlantic to the Red Sea, a distance of about 3,000 miles. It includes the Barbary States (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Tripoli) and Egypt. These five countries have together a population (roughly speaking) of 20,000,000 Mohammedans. At the time when the North Africa Mission was founded, there was not one Christian missionary to Mohammedans in the whole of the Barbary States with their fourteen million souls.

The Peoples. The People of North Africa are a mixed race. They may be divided into Berbers and Arabs. The Berbers, who are the aborigines of the country, are divided into several branches which speak their own languages. Probably the greater number of those called

Arabs are in reality Berbers who have adopted the Arabic language. There are a large number of Jews in North Africa, and also many French, Italians, Spaniards, Maltese, Copts, and a few negroes. The Copts form about seven per cent. of the population of Egypt. They are a remnant of the Christian Church that was in Egypt in the early centuries after Christ.

Religion. The religion of the people was at one time Christian; but owing to the inroads of heresy, the spread of idolatrous practices and the decay of spiritual life, they became an easy prey to their Mohammedan invaders in the seventh century. For over 1,200 years they have been under the yoke of Islam, and until quite recently it was almost impossible to carry on missionary work among them. Many of the Arabs are exceedingly fanatical, and offer decided opposition to the preaching of the Gospel. This is found to be increasingly the case as one proceeds eastwards, nearing Mecca. The Berbers are not so much under the power of the Mohammedan religion, and are

therefore less bigoted, though perhaps more ignorant.

History of the N.A.M. Of the History of the North Africa Mission it is impossible to treat fully in the limited space which this booklet affords. Suffice it to say that, in 1881, the late Mr. George Pearse, the late Dr. Grattan Guinness and Mr. E. H. Glenny united in forming the "Mission to the Kabyles and other Berber races of North Africa." This, a few years later, was re-organised and extended under the name of the "North Africa Mission." The Mission is unsectarian, but strongly orthodox. It is dependent upon the free-will offerings of the Lord's people, and is wholly cast upon God in prayer; it seeks to pray in the money, and to pray for the needed workers, and labours to win souls for Christ. It seeks to meet the overwhelming difficulties in the way by spiritual methods and by faith and prayer. *"If ye shall have faith . . . ye shall . . . say unto this mountain, Remove, . . . and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible to you."*

—Matt. xvii. 20

Stations. The Mission has at the present time seventeen stations and between sixty and seventy European Missionaries, besides native helpers. There are six Stations in Morocco; four in Algeria and Tunisia; in Tripoli there is one; and there are two in the Egyptian Delta.

Methods of Work. The work is necessarily varied, and differs somewhat in each country, but it may perhaps be summarised under the following headings:—Itinerating tours, Public Preaching and Classes for men, Classes for women and children, Visiting from house to house, Medical Missions, Bible and Book Depôts, and Translating, Educational and Industrial work.

Much good work has been done in the way of

ITINERATION

in the less frequented parts of Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia. The regulations of the French Government, the unsettled state of the countries and the difficulties of communication, have all been obstacles



Dr. Wilson with Patients in the Tulloch Memorial Hospital, Tangier.

to progress ; but these obstacles are being gradually removed, and with the opening up of new roads it will be possible, if men and means are available, to push forward energetically in this pioneer work, which it has ever been the aim of the N.A.M. to keep to the front.

PUBLIC MEETINGS FOR MEN,

with direct Gospel addresses, are held where practicable, and attract interested audiences of Moslems.

CLASSES FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN

take up much of the time of the lady missionaries, and in connection with this branch of work much visiting is done in many stations. This is especially necessary in order to reach the better-class Moham-medan women, who are, of course, strictly secluded.

MEDICAL MISSIONS

have been of great use in drawing large numbers within the range of the missionaries' influence, and thus making friends with the people and breaking down their prejudices. The Mission has at

present four qualified doctors and seven trained nurses. Several of these latter are doing good work at dispensaries where there is no doctor. Besides these, there are others who, though not fully trained, have gained valuable experience under medical supervision, and are doing thoroughly successful work which opens the door for the Gospel message in places where fully trained workers are not available. It has been reckoned that there have been as many as 50,000 attendances registered in a year at the hospitals and medical missions. All those who attend not only receive medicine, but hear the Word of God, and in many cases take away books and tracts.

BIBLE AND BOOK DEPOTS

are established in several of the stations. Those who come in are spoken with by the missionary or the native Christian in charge of the Dépôt.

TRANSLATION AND CIRCULATION OF THE SCRIPTURES.

The entire Bible has been translated into the Kabyle language for the first time

by a missionary of the N.A.M. who has been at work nearly thirty years, and the New Testament and portions of the Old have already been published by the British and Foreign Bible Society. Several portions of the New Testament have also been issued in colloquial Arabic dialects, and these Scriptures are being given away or sold at medical missions, book depôts, &c., or by European or native colporteurs in various parts of the country.

An effort has lately been started to distribute by post from England portions of Scripture in French, Arabic and Kabyle among those who live in out-of-the-way places, entirely unvisited by missionaries, the addresses of such being obtained from the *Grand Annuaire*. By this means, the Word of God will come unto the hands of readers who, in the ordinary course of things, would be very unlikely ever to possess a copy. Book postage being very cheap, the expense is not great, and owing to the grants or liberal terms of various Bible Societies, it has been possible to make a good beginning.

EDUCATIONAL WORK

has not been very largely engaged in, but there are several small schools for girls. In some cases the better-class girls who are not allowed to attend classes are visited and taught in their own homes. The first girls' school in Morocco was opened by one of the N.A.M. lady missionaries twenty years ago. At Shebin-el-Kom, in Egypt, there are flourishing schools for boys and girls, where Bible instruction is given daily to a large number of Coptic and Mohammedan children. Allied with educational work may be considered the

HOMES FOR GIRLS

at Tangier, Djemâa Sahridj, and other places, where the young people receive domestic training, and are under daily Christian instruction. At most of the stations also, native guests (generally women and girls) are received in the homes of the missionaries from time to time, and the results of this personal close dealing are, in some cases, we believe, far-reaching.

INDUSTRIAL WORK

has been attempted at a few places; notably at Cherchell in Algeria, where a school for carpet-weaving has proved a very successful effort in this direction. Whatever methods are employed, they are only means to an end—that end ever being to reach the Moslems with the Gospel.

Difficulties. The difficulties of the work are very great. The Moslems offer the strongest possible opposition to the Christian religion. There are so many lessons to be unlearned, prejudices to be overcome, wrong conceptions of God and of Christ to be rectified, false grounds of confidence to be swept away, before the Mohammedan can receive the truth. This only God's saving grace can bring about; but it has pleased Him to work through human instruments, and the missionaries of the North Africa Mission, relying upon the Divine Commission and the promised presence and power of their Lord, go forth in His name to carry the light of the Gospel into these dark places of the earth. Though as yet there has been no large in-



Group of Kabyle Christians.

gathering, there have been many remarkable cases which have greatly cheered the workers, and at the present time there is scarcely a station of the Mission where there are not some native converts, while small native churches have been formed here and there. Several Moorish converts are employed as evangelists, and travel about in the interior of the country, preaching the Gospel and distributing the Scriptures, often at the risk of their lives. It is almost impossible for those who have not been behind the scenes to realise what it means to a Mohammedan to confess Christ openly—contempt, hatred, bitter persecution—sometimes even a cruel death. The day of the Lord will assuredly reveal many unknown ones in North Africa who have been born again through the proclamation of the Gospel there and the distribution of the Word of God.

Changes. While the difficulties with which the missionaries meet are very great, there is no doubt that the political changes which have taken place

during the last few years have largely been to the furtherance of the Gospel. After years of unrest, the great powers of Europe have consented to France taking Central and Southern Morocco under its supervision, while Spain has been permitted to have control along the northern coast and as far down west as Larais. Moorish and Moslem misgovernment has only been tolerated for years past because the nominally Christian Powers were jealous of each other. Now, if they have not come to agreement, they have at any rate withdrawn their opposition to one another. The result of this is that not only have Algeria, Tunis and Egypt lost their independency, but in the last few years Morocco and Tripoli have been brought under European sway.

The recent movements towards freedom in Turkey, Persia and Egypt are of great significance. Among the young men in the Mohammedan centres of learning there is a spirit of enquiry abroad as to the facts and real teaching of the Christian religion. Doubtless this is mainly a desire for in-

tellectual knowledge. Yet the missionary rejoices to find an open ear, for "Faith cometh by hearing;" and many a man who has listened at first to the Gospel from a spirit of mere curiosity has found the Word a mighty power within him, enlightening his understanding, convincing him of sin through the working of the Holy Spirit, and bringing him in lowly penitence to the feet of the only Saviour of sinners.

The Needs. Large is the field for missionary effort in North Africa. There is scarcely one missionary to every hundred thousand souls. Many new stations might be opened and the present work greatly increased and developed if the right workers and increased means were forthcoming. As it is, some of the older stations, which for political and other reasons were abandoned years ago, are now for lack of men and means unvisited, and there are a few touching cases of converts who came into the light during the time that our missionaries were resident there, living on year after year with no earthly friend to help them in their Christian life.

All that has been done is but a trifle compared with what remains to be done. Vast districts have never been visited by a missionary. Does it not behove those who love the Lord and wait for His appearing to aid in spreading the truth in these lands so long enshrouded in darkness and ignorance?

Support. In connection with the supplies that are needed to carry on this missionary effort in the Lord's Name in North Africa, it may be mentioned here that from £60 to £100 a year (according to circumstances) is required for the *personal* support of a missionary. For the ordinary native helper at least £25 a year is required; and for the maintenance of a bed in a hospital from £15 to £20 per annum. With the utmost care, to maintain and develop the work of the Mission, an annual income of fully £10,000 is needed. If it is to expand and to enter the open doors on every side, much more than this large sum will be needed. "*The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.*" —Luke xvii. 27

HOW FRIENDS MAY HELP - - THE NORTH AFRICA MISSION.

By reading and helping to circulate the monthly magazine, "NORTH AFRICA," and other N.A.M. literature.

By arranging for meetings to be held in Churches, Mission Halls, Drawing-rooms, &c., at which either the Organising Secretary, missionaries on furlough, or the Hon. General Secretary would be present to address the friends and give information.

By forming a branch of the "Workers' Union," which supplies clothing and native garments for the work abroad. Lady friends are requested to write to Miss Tighe, The Priory, Christchurch, Hants, the Honorary Secretary of the "Workers' Union."

By adding to the number of the existing local Auxiliaries. The Secretary of an Auxiliary can circulate literature, arrange for working parties, public meetings and meetings for prayer, supply collecting boxes and receive gifts in money or in kind.

By personal prayer for the peoples and countries of North Africa; for the missionaries labouring for God there; for native workers and native converts; for the Council of the Mission; and for all needed labourers and means to support them.

By supporting a missionary on the field as their representative or the representative of a group of friends, a Mission Hall, or a Church; or by supporting a **native worker** or a **hospital bed**.

All enquiries to be addressed to—

THE HON. GENERAL SECRETARY,
18, JOHN STREET, BEDFORD ROW,
LONDON, W.C.

**GIFTS in Money or in kind
should be addressed —**

**“The Hon. General Secretary,
North Africa Mission,
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