

The N.A.M. News Letter

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EDITED BY E. J. LONG

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Photo by]

IN THE OASIS OF GABES
(Note the date palms in the background)

Mr. E. J. Long

The Date Palm

THE date palm has this odd and apparently contradictory feature—that it loves moisture, yet cannot bear rain. Great heat and extreme dryness of atmosphere are essential if its crop is to ripen. It only prospers when, in the

Arab phrase, it has its feet in water and its head in fire. Now the oases of the Sahara, with their subterranean supplies of water, exactly fulfil these ideal conditions; and so the date palm is the desert tree just as unmistakably as the camel is the desert animal. Here in the *souf* the palms stand with their roots permanently in moisture.

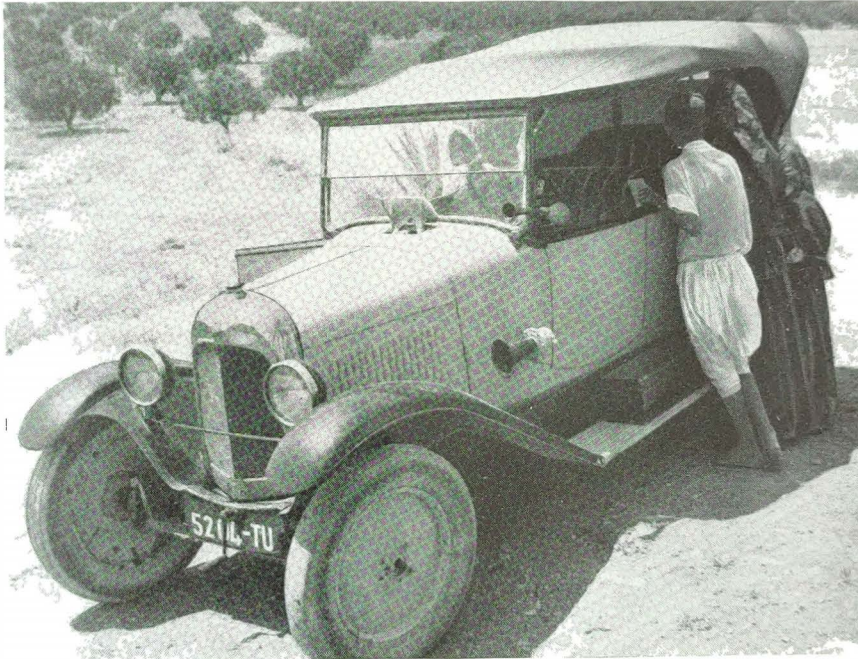
The least stinting of their drink is immediately registered in a diminished harvest, and the deterioration of the trees soon follows. Desert dwellers compute the wealth and strength of a village from the number of its palm trees. It is easier to count these than to take a census of the people, and the result is more reliable. And so in the desert you would speak of a village of so many palms. The equivalent in human numbers would be well understood. The village of Elim, "where were twelve wells of water and three score and ten palm trees" is described in this way in the book of Genesis. The people are not mentioned.

with too much rain, and the air is too much like the air of the sea.

"His leaf also shall not wither." The top of a palm is always green. And there is a further lesson: The palm does not change the character of the desert, but it does provide habitation and wealth within the desert. Its only needs are fruitless sand, the fierce heat, and living water. Its life is measured by the water. Its fruit is measured by the water. Without water it dies. P.F.

A Gospel Motor-Car

"WHAT an ancient-looking car!"—Yes,



AN OLD TUNISIA MISSION CAR

The date palm is a striking picture of the man of God. His surroundings are formidable. Nothing can withstand such burning heat. All else is shrivelled and brown. "But *he* shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season." What season? Not the pleasant rainy season, when everything is green, but in the very oven of affliction. The quality of its fruit is actually enhanced by the "tribulation," for we have hundreds of palm trees here in the north of Tunisia, and not one ever bears an edible date, simply because they are favoured

we do well to remember that even Gospel motor-cars are not immortal. Like Deputation motor-cars, they need to be replaced—preferably before they have become museum specimens of decrepit ironmongery.

The veteran depicted above is the "Carrie" of Miss Tinling's "Budget from Barbary." Such cars have revolutionised the missionary's itineration work, making possible frequent visits to many towns and villages scattered over a wide area, as well as facilitating occasional pioneering excursions into hitherto untouched regions.

Prayer Circle members who pray for

Mr. Miles, Mr. Morriss, Mr. Arthur, Mr. Cook, Mr. Smith, Mr. Bocking, Mr. Cooper, Mr. Swanson and Mr. Morgan may not perhaps be aware that these dear brethren often have their anxious moments as they coax into creditable performance vehicles that are none of them of recent vintage!

Finance

WHILST our faithful GOD ministers to the needs of His missionary children in North Africa through human channels, He is Himself the Source of all supply: for "Every good . . . gift is from ABOVE, and cometh down"—though it may seem to come from *around*. Our needs are great and pressing; but our "expectation" must be from HIM "ALONE."

Bible Depots—Gospel "Lighthouses"

THE value of the Bible Depot as a beacon of Gospel testimony cannot be over-estimated. It is indeed "a light that shineth in a dark place." In its window are Gospel texts, pictures with a message, and—most important of all—open copies of the Holy Scriptures in a variety of tongues, a fresh page turned every day.

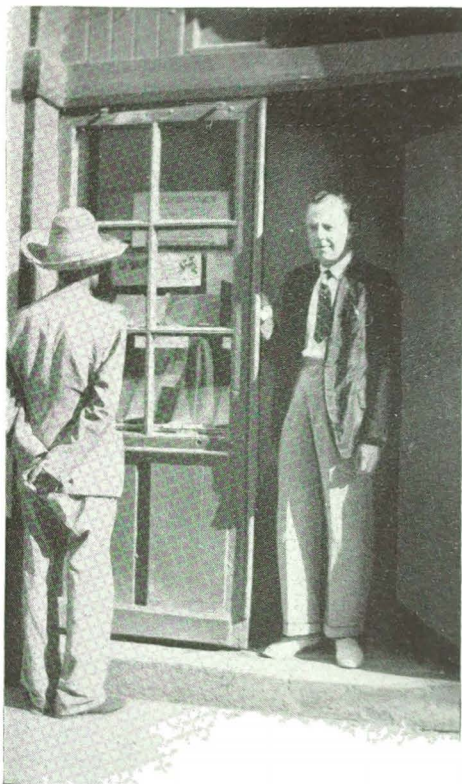
In our illustration Mr. Bocking, of Cherchell, is seen at the door of his "Depot"—a lighthouse-keeper "holding forth the Word of Life." In a land where illiteracy abounds, the serious limitations of the non-reader are not overlooked. Just within some Depot doorways are large wall-pictures by Harold Copping or other artists, and many a wayfarer is intrigued into inquiring of the Depot-keeper just what the picture represents. What a short step from illustrations of the Prodigal Son, the Offering of Isaac, or the Brazen Serpent to the message of Calvary!

Perhaps you will remember in prayer the Bible Depots at Cherchell, Oran, Bougie, Tunis and Nabeul?

The Mosque Towers of Kairouan

FOR more than a fortnight now the mosque towers of Kairouan "the Holy"

have been illuminated with dozens of twinkling lamps hung around their lofty minarets. Only during Ramadhan, the Fast Month, is this custom observed; nor are there lacking other evidences that the Fast is in progress. In the small hours of the morning a drummer patrols the streets of the city, and the boom of his drum, played in a haunting rhythm, comes as a doleful reminder that the last meal must be hastily prepared and swallowed ere the new day's abstinence begins.



MR. BOCKING AT THE DOOR OF
THE BIBLE DEPOT, CHERCHELL,
ALGERIA

By most the Fast is rigidly and even fanatically observed. Not only will the strict Moslem abstain until sundown from food and drink and tobacco, but even flowers and perfumes will be put far from him; and should a finger be accidentally cut, by no means must it be bathed, lest the wound drink in water, and the Fast thereby be broken!

The unnatural manner of living—fasting by day, intemperate indulgence by night—soon bears its evil fruits: nervous and digestive disorders, irritability, and those street-quarrels for which Ramadhan is notorious.

A Call to Prayer

OUR readers will be swift to realise the urgent need of prayer for dear native believers during this supremely difficult month of the year. To break the Fast in a home where unsaved members are already out of sorts and peevish means that passions will be inflamed and violent persecution almost inevitably ensue.

Our Father knows that we in the Homeland can do little beyond praying for our brethren and sisters in Christ out yonder; *but pray we must!*

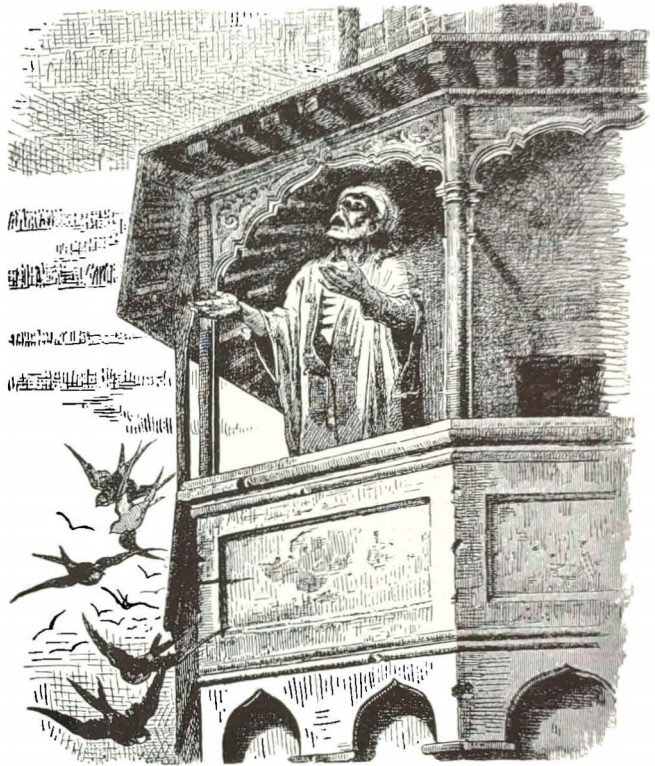
The Annual Meeting and New Workers

THE Farewell Meetings, held on October 4th at Caxton Hall, were in every way encouraging. The attendance at both afternoon and evening meetings was gratifying, and the messages were outstandingly good. It was particularly cheering to have with us on the platform two recruits just about to leave for the field—Miss Grace M. Sharpe, bound for Casablanca, and Mr. R. I. Brown, designated for Tunis. We are sure these two friends would greatly value the prayers of our readers as, in a strange land, they tackle the difficult task of language study.

Deputation Meetings

THE following are the Deputation Secretary's engagements for the next six weeks,

D.V.:—Nov. 13-17, Manchester and Macclesfield; 19-20, Poplar; 22, Edgware; 23, Hook; 24, Trinity Road Tooting; 28, Kensal Medical Mission, W.10; 29, Bedford; 30, Bermondsey; Dec. 1, Rother-



THE CALL TO PRAYER.

hithe; 3, Stratford; 5, Portishead; 6, Burnham-on-Sea; 7-8, Bristol; 10, Golders Green, N.W.; 13, Enfield; 14, Ilford; 15, Hounslow; 18-19, Gosport; 20, Hayling Island; 21, Metropolitan Tabernacle, S.E.; 25, Hargrave Hall, N.; 28, Bethnal Green; 29, Hamond Square; 31, Hampstead Garden Suburb, N.W. *Further details concerning these meetings will gladly be sent to interested friends. Your prayers for GOD'S blessing upon the gatherings will be deeply appreciated.*

PRAYER FOR FUNDS IS EARNESTLY DESIRED
