

Continuing "NORTH AFRICA."

DIAMOND JUBILEE NUMBER

# The N.A.M. News Letter



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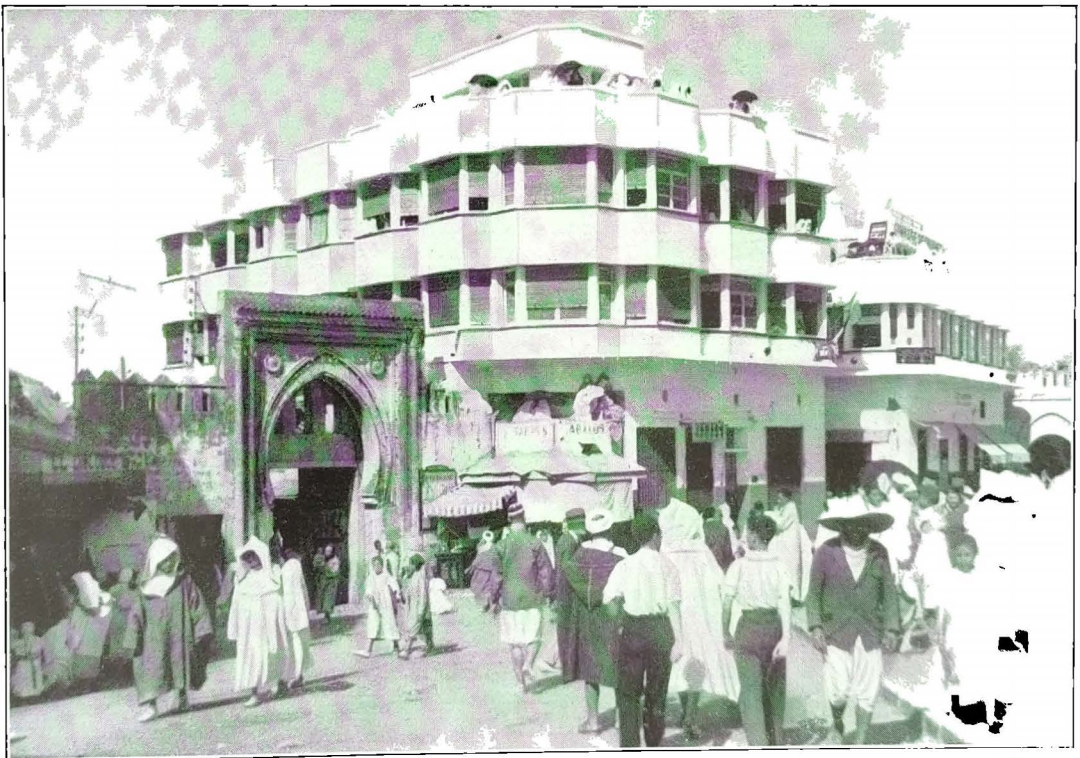


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## TANGIER: ANCIENT AND MODERN

E. J. Long

*Probably no single photograph could convey a more graphic impression of the change that has transformed many of the towns and cities of North Africa during the past 60 years. In Fez, to-day, we have ancient city and ultra-modern suburb in close proximity, yet separate: in Algiers and Tunis, the old and the new largely intermingled; but in the above photograph we see the new literally superimposed upon the old - almost as though giant fingers had dropped a block of newly-finished Parisian flats upon a section of the ancient city wall, completely effacing it!*

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## The N.A.M. Diamond Jubilee

**I**F a Missionary Calendar is bound up within the covers of GOD'S "Book of Remembrance" (Malachi iii. 16), then **May 1st, 1881**, will assuredly be found among the red-letter dates; for it was upon that day that the North Africa Mission was founded.

At that time, sixty years ago, a heavy reproach lay at the door of the Church of Christ; for in the vast area of country extending from Alexandria to the Atlantic *not a single missionary was to be found occupied with the evangelisation of the native races.*

Three honoured names are always associated with the early days of the N.A.M.—Mr. Edward H. Glenny, Dr. Grattan Guinness, and Mr. George Pearse; and it is well, on such an occasion as this, that special attention should be drawn to the latter of these three names: for, at the moment, we are standing at the very source of a signal work of GOD.

Mr. Pearse was honorary secretary of the Chinese Evangelisation Society when, in 1853, he took a prominent part in sending forth Hudson Taylor—twelve years before the **China Inland Mission** was founded.

It was as a veteran that, in 1876, and in company with his wife, Mr. Pearse visited Algeria; and the hearts of these dear saints of GOD were deeply touched with sympathy for the poor Kabyles (a section of the native inhabitants of Algeria), whose country was just then in the grip of famine, from which not a few of the natives died.

Three years later, in 1879, Dr. H. Grattan Guinness made a short tour of Algeria, and was greatly impressed with the spiritual destitution of these totally unevangelised Kabyles.

It was early in 1881 that Mr. Glenny's attention was drawn to Algeria by reading an article in the *Daily Chronicle*, which told of the way in which Algerian produce was sent to London markets; and it occurred to him that it might be possible to engage in business in Algeria, and at the same time serve the Lord in direct work for Him out yonder.

### Early Beginnings

Thus it came about that three devoted hearts, touched with loving concern by the Lord of the Harvest, formed themselves into a small committee. In a pamphlet called "Mission to the Kabyles," Mr. Pearse pleaded their cause; but, neither French Protestant friends nor any of the well-known British Evangelical Missions being able and willing to undertake missionary work in

Algeria, necessity was laid upon these pioneers in a new cause to form a new Mission.

The enterprise called for young, vigorous, consecrated men; and the Lord had the first pair already available—a young Swiss, Monsieur H. Mayor, and a Druse of similar age named Selim Zeytoun, who knew French as well as Arabic.

Accordingly, in the autumn of 1881, these two brethren were accompanied to their distant destination (Djemâa Sahridj, our first Mission Station) by Mr. Glenny and Mr. Pearse, the latter then sixty-seven years of age.

### The Growth of a Work of God

There is obviously not space here to trace the growth of the N.A.M. during the past sixty years, but the following facts are impressive:—

Within twenty years the number of workers increased fifty-fold, the *two* of autumn, 1881, having become *one hundred* by January 1st, 1900. In the providence and inscrutable wisdom of GOD this number has been approximately maintained for the past forty years, as though the GOD of Gideon's handful of warriors deemed it a sufficiently numerous company with which, through His all-sufficing grace, to assault continuously the Moslem strongholds of the Barbary States.

In the early years, too, the scope of the work was constantly enlarged; Morocco being entered in 1883, Tunisia in 1885, Arabia in 1886, Tripoli in 1889, and Egypt in 1892.

Whereas, again, in 1900 there were *eighteen* Mission Stations, the number of centres eventually occupied, some temporarily, others continuously, grew to about *forty*.

What the prayers and labours and generosity of Edward H. Glenny meant to the N.A.M. during well-nigh forty-five years, only our Heavenly Father can truly assess.

### To-day

Were conditions normal, our deep sense of gratitude to GOD would itself have assured that the Diamond Jubilee of the North Africa Mission should not pass without some worthy celebration of *His* abounding faithfulness. But, alas, the times are *not* normal; and although many hundreds of loving, loyal, grateful hearts scattered throughout Britain, and even farther afield, will raise their thankful Ebenezers, anything in the nature of united gatherings or special literature must necessarily remain in abeyance until the glad day when the blessings of peace shall blend a richer note with every other theme of rejoicing.

Surely no present celebration of our gratitude to GOD could be more completely satisfying to

His heart than our reaffirmed determination, by His grace, throughout these days of conflict, to support to the uttermost, by our prayers and by our gifts, that faithful little band of workers out yonder in the thick of the fray, and suffering from increasing privations. "HE is faithful . . . be thou faithful."

## News from the Field

**TUNIS.**—**Mr. R. I. Brown** has recently returned from a further itinerating journey into Southern Tunisia, which may well prove to be the last of its kind for some while. The government authorities have intervened, and our brother's sphere of activity is now limited to places within a twenty-mile radius of Tunis. Even so, a densely-populated area remains accessible, offering tremendous scope.

On his last (eight-day) trip in the very heart of Tunisia, Mr. Brown sold over 250 Scripture portions. Thus, in days of war, the Seed is still being broadcast.

In Tunis city itself our young brother is also greatly encouraged. He writes: "Last night in the French meeting [that he shares with **Mr. Stanley Miles**] I called for testimonies and got five straight off without a stop. In every way the Lord just amazes us with His goodness and grace in allowing us thus to be used."

**ALGIERS.**—**Miss Margaret Ross** sends us a couple of snapshots, one of which we reproduce here with the following notes, furnished by our sister: "The snap is of a family that came regularly to my classes. The parents took up residence close to our house because they wanted their children taught. We are able to pass on Arabic books to the father, but the girls and elder boy go to the French school. The little one in front with a torn overall always stands up to repeat his text, and cannot bear to be left till the last. His bigger brother gives me his half-pence to mind while he shuts his eyes for prayer! They are all so much in earnest—almost too much so when it comes to the singing!"

... "You may be interested to hear"—continues Miss Ross—"that forty-six different Europeans have been in our house for talks this year. Almost without exception, the folk around are most friendly. Even the priest has twice shaken hands with me and said how much pleasure it gives him to see me going along 'smiling so valiantly.' 'Continue, continue the good work you are doing!' he cried.

"Poverty is beginning to be felt; and those that toil up the fifty steps to our doorway are not beggars in the usual sense, but really hungry

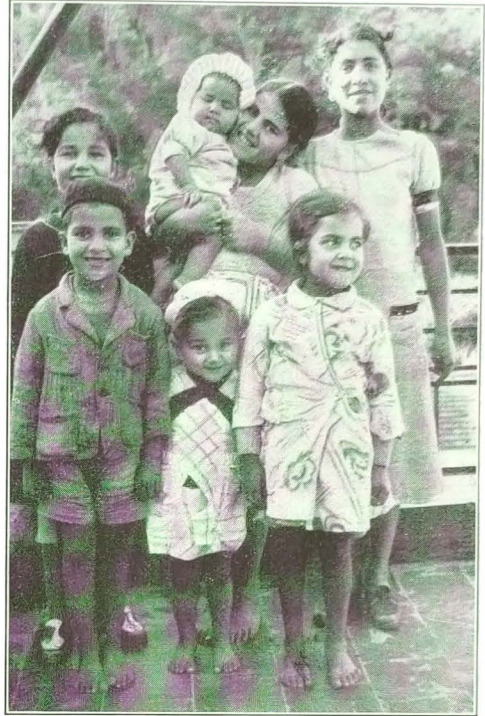


Photo by]

[Miss M. Ross

### SOME OF MY BAIKNS

people. Thank GOD, we have sufficient bread at present to share with them; and we never fail to tell them of the Bread of Life."

**LAFAYETTE.**—After a busy day spent in visiting a number of villages, **Mr. Marsh** sat down to write a brief line. Although the work is continuing very much as usual, he stresses the need for earnest prayer, for the powers of evil are very active. He is eager that one or two more among those that are specially interested in the Gospel may be brought out into public confession of Christ.

**MENAA.**—From this citadel amidst the Chaouia people **Monsieur Charles Cook** writes: "I have had a very good tour amongst the churches of Algeria. Missionary interest is great, and the meetings for young people have been particularly encouraging. Here on the station the attendance of boys is keeping up, and they are very attentive during the meetings. I shall soon be beginning my visits to the villages, though, as there is very little petrol, most of this work must be done on foot."

**AZAZGA.**—**Mr. Arthur** reports that his colportage work is restricted to his own area. He is therefore giving more time to the visitation of

near-by villages, though this involves about four hours' walking every day.

He is shortly to make a tour, GOD willing, in company with the French pastor. *This is the second time recently that one of our missionaries has been invited to visit the French Protestant centres of Algeria. It is a manifest proof of the sympathy of our French friends, for which we praise GOD.*

**TAZA.**—Miss Marston writes: "We have had almost entirely to drop our village work during this winter. Even when there has been a fine day the roads and rivers have been impassable. Our numbers have consequently been very low during the stormy weather, but they are looking up again now. The next pressing difficulty will be the shortage of drugs. I am well off in some things, but running out of others."

**TETUAN.**—Misses Bradbury and Low are still carrying on their work without hindrance from the authorities. They write: "A large number of girls came to the knitting class this afternoon; and as they bring their own work it is no burden financially—apart from a little wool to teach the first stitches."

But, for us well-fed folk in the Homeland, there is a note of poignancy in the brief remark: "We have had some terrible bread some days; and now only half rations."

Sadder still is this sentence, culled from a letter (to Mr. Warren) from Mrs. Simpson of Guercif, and referring to the fuel shortage: "The cold seems almost to have dulled brain, as well as fingers . . . one felt near wits'-end corner with only one litre of paraffin [less than two pints] for the month."

Thank GOD that the cold, wet winter is now past!

**TANGIER.**—Mr. Warren writes: "The situation here is not improving, though so far there is little to complain of save disappearing commodities and high prices. . . . But our GOD is still Jehovah Jireh, and in wonderful ways He is providing for His own."

**FRANCE.**—From Southern France that indefatigable veteran, **Monsieur Hocart**, writes: "I am always on the run, and go to two villages twice a week, and sometimes twice to one of them. . . . Recently, whilst on a visit to two other towns, I called at eleven North Africa *cafés*, getting in touch with Kabyles there, and selling many Scripture portions."

**PARIS.**—When last we wrote of **Miss Elsie Tilney** she was, so far as we could gather, staying in the house of Mr. Warren. We greatly regret to say that we have since received official intimation of her interment, together with Commander and Mrs. Salwey, and Miss Ruth Salwey.

## *The Late Miss A. Bolton*

The Homecall of Miss Alexia Bolton, of Kirby Muxloe, at the advanced age of eighty, removes a former valued member of our missionary staff in Morocco.

Accepted by the Council in August, 1888, Miss Bolton spent some months in East London to gain experience in home mission work, and also began the study of Arabic before sailing for Tangier in April, 1889. In 1890, accompanied by Miss Banks, she settled in Tetuan, where she soon manifested an ardent desire for the salvation of Moors and Spaniards attending the medical mission. A brief extract from her diary, dated October 21st, 1892, will serve to illustrate her zeal and consuming purpose: "I had a good talk with five women, pleading with them to turn, in their hopelessness, to the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ."

Miss Bolton's enthusiasm is yet further revealed in one of her annual reports upon the year's work: "This has been a good year for us, rich in blessing. We praise the Lord for additional work put into our charge—the two classes for Moorish children, the Spanish school mothers' meeting, the Sunday service, and the large numbers of patients who come five times a week for treatment."

A fellow-worker, Miss I. de la Camp, sends the following appreciation: "It was early in February, 1897, that I first saw Miss Bolton. She was in Gibraltar to meet me, and took me, the new worker, across to Tetuan with her. There I spent a very happy six and a half years of missionary life. From the first I felt her influence, and was greatly helped by her teaching and example. In spite of her indifferent health in those days, her great energy and sense of duty impressed me very much. Whatever she undertook had to be made to pay in the Master's service, whether it was gardening, poultry-keeping, taking a meeting, or teaching in the Spanish school: all had to be for His glory.

"Her zeal was infectious, and her knowledge of the Word of GOD stimulated to deeper Bible study. I thank GOD upon every remembrance of what she was to me in those days. She remained a true friend in all the years that passed since."

In 1919 Miss Bolton was obliged, for various family reasons, to return to the homeland; but she retained to the end a keen interest in the progress of the work. Our sympathy goes out to Mr. and Mrs. John Bolton, of Leicester, who cared for Miss Bolton during her brief illness, and were by her bedside as her life slowly ebbed away.

B.I.E.