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THE

MISSIONARY SURVEY



HOME
MISSIONS

FOREIGN
MISSIONS

SEPTEMBER, 1923



"The Points" Susaki Bay.

CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION
AND
MINISTERIAL
RELIEF

PUBLICATION
AND
SABBATH
SCHOOL
WORK

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U.S.
 AT HOME AND ABROAD

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MAN'S WAY AND GOD'S WAY—WITH THE TURK

R. A. LAPSLEY, D. D.



Every lover of mankind has been grieved beyond measure with the final issue of the Lausanne Conference which has been to completely rehabilitate the "unspeakable Turk," putting him back in the place of power, from which the world war had driven him. In order to show our readers what this means we quote some very illuminating paragraphs on the Turkish question from *The International Interpreter*:

After the world war, nothing seemed to stand in the way of a long last rendering of righteous judgment, but at the last minute of the eleventh hour the Turk was saved—by France. Armenia was ignored and flouted; the Cilician Christians were deserted, handed over to massacre and outrage, and the work of forging a Franco-Turkish entente was put vigorously under way. France was quickly followed by Italy, actuated by a desire to frustrate the plans of Greece, and the Turk, hardly able to believe himself, took heart of grace once more, thanking Allah that in his infinite wisdom he had put it into the hearts of infidel dogs ever to fight amongst themselves.

The outcome of all this is seen today in the agreement that has just been reached in Lausanne. The Turk has returned. Constantinople is restored to him without reservation; he has spread himself once more over Eastern Thrace; Smyrna, with its Greek and Armenian quarters gutted and silent, is once again in his hands and "peace" reigns throughout the land as it did once so grimly upon occasion at Warsaw. No prodigal son was ever so honored. The best robe is none too good for the Turk; there is a ring for his hand, shoes for his feet, and champagne in place of the fatted calf at every hostelry in Lausanne. Moreover, his goods and chattels are all restored to him, for within six months of the ratification of the treaty by Angora, "all the warships, arms and munitions belonging to the Ottoman government in the hands of the allied forces will be

returned to Turkey." Neither is this all, for all the powers are jointly agreed that, whereas they have in the past had so little faith in Turkish justice that they have kept its administration, as far as their own nationals were concerned, in their own hands, now they are agreed to submit to Turkish rulings. In other words, the capitulations have been abolished, and the Turk, his scimitar wiped and restored to its scabbard, takes his place on the bench. If it were not all tragic beyond words, it would surely be comic beyond expression.

Meanwhile, the wind whirls the dust about the silent bazaars of the Armenian city of Harpoot, and the mulberry groves on the way to Garseg are laid waste. It is the same in all of the country roundabout. "Peace! Peace! Tell it to the whole world," declared Ismet Pasha, as he emerged from the final conference at Lausanne. Ismet has a fine sense of the dramatic, but there is no peace in such a settlement.

The outcome of all this is unutterably tragic, so far as the Armenians and other Near East Christians are concerned. They are handed back into the tender mercies of the wicked; and there seems to be nothing before them but expatriation or extermination.

But has God no other purpose for all that vast region in Asia Minor, Mesopotamia, Arabia and Syria, over which the Turks once more rule, and in which the crescent has displaced the Cross, than to give that part of the earth over to the undisputed dominion of the False Prophet? To this question there are two answers.

First, the Mohammedan world is not going to be converted by the sword. War against Turkey by the so-called Christian nations will never bring the Turks to Christ. This is the Turk's

own method of conversion, it is not that of the Gospel. And the triumph of the Turk and the utter failure of Christianity *along this line*, is shown in the issue of the Lausanne Conference.

Second, God has his own way of settling the Eastern Question, as it has long been called, and that way is as old as apostolic days. Let devoted men and women go to the followers of Mahomet and "cease not to teach and preach Jesus Christ," and the question will be settled. The gospel is the power of God unto salvation to the Turk as well as to the Jew and the Greek of apostolic days.

Recently Rev. Samuel Zwemer, the veteran missionary to the Mohammedans, has given forth some very pessimistic utterances as to the success of Missionary work in Turkish and other Mohammedan lands. He has said that about all the visible results of mission work in those countries was that accomplished by putting new life into the old Nestorian and Syrian Christian churches, and now the Turks are driving out and exterminating their Armenian and Syrian members!

Is Dr. Zwemer right? Has the gospel failed in the conflict with the doctrines of the False Prophet of Mecca,

when it has won out against every other man-made religion? On the contrary there is evidence that at this moment gospel truth is leavening the Mohammedan world and doing its silent irresistible work among the followers of Islam. In proof of this we give our readers the following most interesting piece of missionary news, clipped from *The Moslem World*, and reprinted in *The Missionary Review of the World*.

Considerable interest has been aroused by an article in *The Moslem World*, describing the underground Christianity which has come into being in recent years in Islam and which is actually organized with a supreme head in a certain city. These converts from Mohammedanism have their password and secret meetings, forming a veritable Christian freemasonry scattered throughout the Moslem world. The writer, Mary C. Holmes, when attending one of these meetings at which the communion was being celebrated behind locked doors, was accosted by a rug merchant with, "Of a truth thou art our sister. Thou art the first to understand us. We are *Christian* Christians." She says: "I sat in that meeting scarcely able to credit my senses and witnessed a fervor of devotion rarely seen, an orderly type of worship, hymns, Christian hymns used only by themselves and sung from memory, throbbing with love for the Saviour of men. And women were there, Moslem women addressed as 'sisters' and unveiled. 'Are there others like you?' I queried, incredulous. 'Many,' was the reply. 'And where?' I next asked. 'Everywhere' was the answer."

(Continued from page 642.)

"I have here today several books which I am sure you will be interested in. 'God's Minute,' is a book of 365 daily prayers, sixty seconds long, contributed by the greatest minds in the English speaking world for the benefit of those who need to find spiritual expression of their soul's inmost needs. This book sells for sixty cents.

"'First Steps in Family Worship' is a booklet written for those who are setting up a family altar.

"The 'Creed of Presbyterians' and 'Presbyterianism' should be in every Presbyterian home. They give in delightfully simple form the history of the beginnings of our church, and its influence in the countries in which it flourished. You can't help but be thrilled to read of the innumerable sessions that ran into years in which those faithful old fathers actually wrestled with the Lord for guidance in writing out the Catechism and the Confession of Faith.

"'Presbyterianism, A Heritage and a Challenge,' by Dr. Lingle, of the Seminary, is written especially for young people.

"We have here the Home and Foreign Mission Study Books.

"We hope you will find that this table serves a real need in this Auxiliary."

A wide-awake Secretary of Literature means much to an auxiliary. Madam President use her.