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I.—LITERARY.

CONDITIONS OF SUCCESS IN THE GOSPEL MINISTRY.*

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PREACHING, which is the prime function of the ministry, has been **aptly** and tersely defined as "Truth through Personality."

The **other** departments of instruction in this institution have to do **mainly** with the truth—a fixed and unvarying element. This **department**, however, more especially in one of its **branches**, has to do with the ever-varying element of *personality*—the **medium** through which the truth is conveyed.

The **burning** question here is not, "What is truth?" but rather, "**How** can the truth be brought into saving contact with a **perishing** world?"

Whilst there are many and divergent views as to what constitutes that truth which is committed to the ministry, there are no **less** divergent views as to the nature and functions of the **ministry**; views, perhaps not so obtrusively heterodox, but **none** the less pernicious in their influence.

In **view** of the practical importance of the subject, and without **apology** for introducing to your attention so trite a theme, let us **consider** briefly and simply some, at least, of the **conditions** of success in the gospel ministry.

Where shall we find our model minister? the ideal pastor? What constitutes the highest excellence in this calling? One instinctively points to the great "Shepherd of the sheep," as being the archetypal "teacher sent from God," the very incar-

*Inaugural Address in Union Theological Seminary, Va., May, 1894.

III.—MISSIONARY DEPARTMENT.

THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN THE LEVANT AS RELATED TO MISSION WORK.

An address by the Rev. T. R. Sampson, at the Student Volunteer Movement Convention at Detroit, Mich.

In order to deal with this subject intelligibly, it will be necessary first to describe the situation. Then we shall be in a position to consider the effects which that situation may produce, and finally what the situation may demand in those who undertake mission work where it prevails.

I. The situation is different from that found in any other country in which mission work is carried on. In Japan and China, for instance, we find a homogeneous population, with a native government; in India, a heterogeneous population with an alien government, but a government which is stable and just. In the Levant, however, we find a heterogeneous population, a government alien to many of the nationalities within its borders, and a government which, like the Turk, its originator, is simply "unspeakable" in its injustice, tyranny and insecurity.

The political situation in the Levant is the famous "Eastern Question"—a question which is not only difficult to answer, but a situation delicate and most difficult to define, so varied and shifting are the elements which enter into it, so unstable is the controlling influence, so uncertain the continuance of any force which may be for the moment supreme.

One or two illustrations will set forth the position more clearly than pages of description. The whole situation is like a kaleidoscope, in which the paper cylinder represents the Turkish government, the bits of glass the various nationalities and these have to be looked at through the stained glass of European diplomacy, while the slightest jar of any portion may produce a new arrangement of all the parts.

The condition of the Turkish empire more particularly is most fitly represented as that of a body in unstable equilibrium, an inverted pyramid which rests upon its apex. But even the

attenuated base is still being vigorously diminished by the combined efforts of pygmy enemies, the "infant liberties," as Mr. Gladstone terms the Greek, Servian, Bulgarian and Rumanian governments, and of its own corrupt and venal officials. Its fall would be inevitable, imminent and fatal but for the giants, or great powers of Europe, England, Russia, France, and Austria, which, standing behind the pygmies, each steady the unstable body, by pulling it vigorously from opposite sides, each having his own commercial, political or religious interests to conserve. For religion and politics are inseparable in all the East.

The brevity of this tenure of life is expressed by the familiar term "sick man," whose life is only sustained or prolonged by stimulants, or electric shocks, administered by his doctors, all expectant legatees, until each in turn may have an opportunity to add a codicil to his will or clip a few coupons from his bonds.

II. The effects produced by this situation may be said to afford :

1. *Peculiar advantages* for mission work among the decayed Christian churches. The moslem at first only contemptuous of all religions but his own has been tolerant towards other creeds from necessity since the taking of Constantinople and the concessions then made. After 1854 he was forced to grant a measure of religious liberty theoretically, even to his co-religionists, which has remained almost a dead letter.

However diverse, or opposed, the interests of the many claimants they are each and all zealous defenders of the rights and privileges as a whole, once granted, and will not permit the rights of an enemy even to suffer lest his own turn should come next. Thus greater liberty is enjoyed in Turkey than in any other country of Eastern Europe.

2. *Special difficulties*. This state of political unrest, however, is necessarily unfavorable to the careful consideration of other or religious questions. The minds and hearts of the people are turned constantly towards the political horizon, watching the reappearance of the borealis, or some new turn of the kal-eidoscope.

Then in the absence of proper national institutions, around which their aspirations may cluster, patriotism, as we understand it, is almost impossible, and there are many who argue most plausibly, "we have but two bonds which hold us together,

a common language and a common tongue; let us not sever either of these until we have a common government or have attained our national aim."

The Turk is thus abundantly supplied with advisors who are ready to help him do anything which will injure a rival without sacrificing some common interest.

This has been the source of no end of trouble in building churches, sustaining schools, circulating religious literature as well as of personal persecution.

These evils have been intensely aggravated, during the last few years, at the instigation of Russia.

The Turk himself, at first only contemptuous, has, as the Christian communities have advanced in intelligence, power, and wealth, become suspicious and even not a little fearful.

III. Turning our attention now briefly to the needs of this situation, we will ask:

1. *What does it demand?* There is no special call now for an increase in the mission force or the mission funds; but there is an imperative demand that the present force be maintained and recruited when necessary, by only the ablest, wisest, most prudent men who can be found. Men, who while possessing all the spiritual qualifications will be able to direct, lead, and inspire others, and with great tact and discretion avoid the traps which are constantly set for them. Men of that combination of piety and common sense which has so distinguished the whole course of our American missions in that portion of the world.

2. *Whom does it demand?* Pre-eminently Americans, as missionaries, leaders, teachers, organizers, and trainers, while the natives of the various nationalities will be the most effective evangelists and pastors, and to them the whole work will ultimately be transferred so soon and so rapidly as they develop ability to govern and support themselves. No other nation is at liberty to send missionaries to work as Americans can. The political interest of each European nation, as well as the relation of church and State, would immediately produce complications. This is universally recognized, and the existence of the Turkish Mission Aid Society in London to help this American work, is a most impressive confession of the weakness.

Syria and Egypt are only apparent exceptions to this rule—enjoying especial protection.

3. *When should this necessary work be done?* Now. It is

impossible to say what condition will succeed the present. But whatever the difficulties now, they will certainly be increased in the future should either Russia or Austria succeed Turkey in any portion of the territory.

The conduct of both Greece and Servia towards mission work leads us to expect little grace from them, and if Bulgaria has been less jealous and hostile, it is to be attributed, no doubt, to the fact that the mission work was so firmly established already in schools and churches within her borders before she attained any measure of her independence. It should be added also that it was largely through the training received in Robert College that her statesmen have been able to learn that political wisdom that has secured for her the recognition and support of Europe which she has demanded and in so high a degree deserved.

The honor was reserved for the archaeologists of the American School of Classical studies at Athens, in its excavations to restore to the world some months ago the mutilated form of Juno, the bride of Jupiter. The far greater honor has been reserved to the American missionaries, especially of the American and Presbyterian Boards of setting up again in the Levant the long prostrate form of the Bride of Heaven, the church of Christ, removing the accumulated debris of ages of ignorance and superstition and reuniting her mutilated and scattered members.

May they be abundantly sustained in this noble effort until she shall go forth in all her matchless perfection, clear as the sun, fair as the moon and terrible as an army with banners, conquering and to conquer.

MISTAKES OF MODERN MISSIONARIES.

By REV. HOWARD CAMPBELL.

We hear a great deal in these days of the mistakes of the missionaries. In fact they are sometimes set forth in such a manner as might lead us to believe no mistakes are more frequent, more stupendous or more deplorable than these. The strange part of it all is that these so-called mistakes are more noticeable to those who have no interest whatever in missionary work, who have never troubled themselves to obtain any facts with regard to it, and who would not, even though the