



Published every Alternate Month,

Under Direction of the Upper Canada Bible Society.

VOL. IX.

TORONTO, SEPTEMBER, 1879.

No. 5.

ADDRESS OF REV. H. H. JESSUP, D.D., OF SYRIA, AT THE SIXTY-THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY.

MR. PRESIDENT,—There is one problem which is beginning to engage the attention of the Christian world, and which will require for its solution all the wisdom, the intellect, the patience, the perseverance, and the faith of the whole Christian Church. It is the Mohammedan missionary problem—how to reach one hundred and fifty millions of men, scattered from the Pacific in China to the Atlantic at Mogadore, speaking thirty different languages; of divers nationalities, yet all united and knit together, cemented and bound in one by a common faith which has survived the shocks and the conflicts of twelve hundred years. It is my desire this evening, in a very condensed and concise manner, to present to your minds some features of this problem; some of the difficulties in the way, and some of the facilities which God has given to His church, partly growing out of that system of religion and partly growing out of the present state of the world, which may aid us in giving the gospel to the Mohammedan world. Among the difficulties to be met in such a system of religion are these:—In the first place it is a union of temporal and spiritual powers, even more than in the Church of Rome. The Caliph of Mohammed is king and priest. He is the successor of the Prophet on earth. They claim that the world belongs to them as the chosen people of Allah. According to the theory of their system, the head of the Mohammedan religion is the spiritual head of the human race. The Koran and the scimitar went together—the scimitar carried the Koran with it. Mohammedanism offered either its Koran, or slavery or death, and to-day Mohammedan propagandists in Central Africa are offering the sword or the Koran to the African tribes, many of which sooner than be slaughtered will accept the doctrine of the Prophet. In the fifteenth century the Crescent reigned with undisputed sway all the way from Burmah to Gibraltar. It has lost much of that power, but it is a military, religious and civil organization. All Mohammedans excepting the Persians and the Moors acknowledge the