

## Mission Field.

### A MODERN MISSIONARY.

It was at the close of 1889 that a new recruit, even more remarkable than the scholar-athlete, Keith-Falconer, set out for Arabia. Thomas Valpy French, the "seven-tongued man of Lahore," was no less remarkable as a linguist than Ion Keith-Falconer; but he was an old man, not a young one; an expert in missions to Mohammedans, and not an eager tyro. Like his younger comrade in the same field, Valpy French had a distinguished University career. A scholar and Fellow of his College, and Latin essayist, he had shown in the keen competition of Oxford life the qualities which he employed so well in the mission-field. French was twenty-five years of age when he joined the Church Missionary Society and went out to India as first Principal of the newly-formed Divinity College at Agra. He was there when the Mutiny threatened the peace of its Christian inhabitants. The English withdrew for safety into the fort; but it was proposed that the native Christians should be left to their fate outside. French announced that in that case he would remain outside and brave the future with them. The natives were admitted. Twice afterwards French began new enterprises in India. In 1861 he went out, after a short period of rest, to found the Derajat Mission on the Afghan frontier. In 1869, after another spell of work at home, he established the Divinity College at Lahore. Once again, after a little more comparative repose in England, he was called to India, this time, in 1877, as the first Bishop of Lahore. He resigned the see ten years later. It will always be remembered in connection with Valpy French and frontier missions in India that his personal influence was one means of drawing out to that field George Maxwell Gordon, 'the pilgrim missionary of the Punjab,' who was killed succouring the wounded outside Kandahar. When French laid down office he did not cease from missionary work. He travelled in the East, and frequently wrote home upon the position and needs of the work in one country or another. When in England he was always ready to speak or preach for the cause. But his attention was gradually centered in Arabia, and he formed the resolve to visit that country alone. He chose Muscat as his destination; reached there in February, 1891, and immediately began to form plans for penetrating into the interior. In April French wrote home cheerfully, recounting his hopes and disappointments, his discussions with the people in their shops and houses, sometimes even in the mosques, his happiness over one Arab "who seems really to love the Bible," his anxiety to find some native who could be his companion on the adventurous journey from Muscat. Two days after that letter was received came news by cable that

Valpy French had died of sunstroke. —The Rev. A. R. Buckland, in *The Quiver*, for March.

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