

is now well paid. And besides, extensive and invaluable public works, looking to irrigation and drainage have been constructed, at great cost, indeed, but the source also of great wealth to the people. As a result, the value of the cotton crop alone has been increased by \$4,000,000 a year; and from a condition next to bankruptcy, and an annual deficit in 1883 amounting to £706,397, the income has steadily risen of late, until in 1891 a surplus was found of £1,100,000 !

But one of the most cheering features of the outlook is found in the changes evidently in progress inside the Coptic Church, and forced upon it by the evident superiority of the teaching and practice which centre in the American Mission. As one example, a letter written in March of this year conveys the surprising intelligence that for more than three years nightly meetings have been held in the cathedral at Assiout, and in other places in Upper Egypt, and that the confessional has been abolished, and the pictures of the Virgin and the saints have been removed. And all this has been done under the leadership of reformed Coptic priests. And, strangest of all, at Assiout also, since their priesthood is so ignorant as to be unfit to give religious instruction, the *leaders* of the Coptic Church have asked the American Mission for one of its licentiates to teach them truth and duty, promising to provide for his support, and to allow him full freedom of utterance ! Can these dry bones live ? Yes, when the Spirit of God blows upon them.

In the two chief cities of Egypt somewhat of mission work is performed by the Church of England, and the Free Church of Scotland and others, but largely for the foreign portion of the population ; and during the current year the North Africa Missionary Society has entered the Delta. But it is devoutly to be hoped, it may reasonably be expected, that at least the Nile Valley, the chief scene of its toils and triumphs, will be left for long years to come to be tilled exclusively by the American Mission. As for the other legions of the Lord's host, let them stand off and observe, give hearty sympathy and congratulations, and rejoice in their joy. Let all Christians of every name continue in fervent supplication that the efforts of that long line of laborers may be so richly blessed that not only shall the thousands in the Coptic Church be won to a pure Gospel, but also that through them the millions of the Mohammedans shall be led to accept Him who is the Way, and the Truth, and the Life.

The North African Mission has opened work in Lower Egypt by sending there recently five missionaries, two of whom are males. In this part of the land there is a population of 4,500,000, mostly Mohammedans, and almost wholly without the gospel. There are about forty towns with from 7000 to 40,000 inhabitants, and five hundred towns with from 2000 to 7000 inhabitants.