

in February, 1821. But at the end of three months his health gave way. Two years later he died from fever at Alexandria. In the beginning of 1823 the Revs. Messrs. Fisk, Jonas King, and Joseph Wolff set out together from Malta—then a favourite rendezvous for eastern missionaries—for Palestine, *via* Cairo and the desert. They settled down at Jerusalem, extending their labours to Jaffa, Hebron, and other places in the neighbourhood. For a time, all went well with them, only that they had to abandon the field during the hot summer months, when they would retire to Beirut or the mountains of Lebanon. In 1824, while employed in selling the Scriptures to some American pilgrims in Jerusalem, Messrs. Fisk and Bird were arrested and charged before Moslem judges with the strange crime of "distributing books that were neither Mohammedan, Jewish nor Christian." So they went and came between Beirut and Jerusalem until 1825 when Mr. Fisk also died of fever at the age of thirty-three. He was a most enthusiastic and devoted missionary and universally beloved. The subsequent history of the American Mission in Palestine may be summed up in a few words. A medical missionary was sent, and he died. The work was suspended for nearly nine years, when the Rev. W. M. Thomson, and Rev. Asa Dodge, M. D. with their wives, were sent to revive the cause. After a few weeks Mrs. Thomson died; Dr. Dodge also died. Mr. Whiting was driven away by ill health. The only one who remained for any length of time was Mr. Laneau. In 1843 the mission was finally given up, having lost twenty labourers by death in as many years. The missionaries were transferred to Syria, and Dr. Thomson, the celebrated author of "The Land and the Book" is now the sole survivor of the band. The only monument of their work in Palestine is a little grave-yard on Mount Zion near the so-called Tomb of David.

II. EGYPT—the oldest of all civilized countries—is also a land of colossal ruins, which amid surrounding desolation still stand to attest the truth of history. Before the days of Abraham, Egypt had become a great nation, and all through the Bible times it has a conspicuous place. In 332 B. C., it became a Greek colony under Alexander the Great. In 30 A. D., it became a Roman province. Tradition assigns the introduction of Christianity at Alexandria to St. Mark. Some think Apollos was the first Christian teacher in his native city. The first historic name, however, according to Eusebius is that of Pantaenus about A. D. 180. At all events Alexandria became the seat of a great Christian school and of a patriarchal see outranking even Jerusalem and Antioch, though subsequently eclipsed by Constantinople and

Rome. It was long famous for its magnificent libraries. Here Clement and his pupil Origen, and Athanasius taught the Christian religion in opposition to the gnostic sects. But like all the other early Christian Churches, that of Alexandria died of *inertia*. The city and the country of which it was the capital became an easy prey to the followers of Mohammed in A. D. 640, and rapidly sank into ignorance, poverty, and bigotry. The present population of Egypt is about 5,250,000. The Pasha, or vice roy, is nominally a vassal of Turkey, but is practically invested with absolute power. Alexandria has still a population of 200,000. For many years the Church of Scotland has here maintained a mission to the Jews under the care of Dr. Yule, the minister of St. Andrew's Church, connected with which are thirty communicants. In the mission schools there are between three and four hundred scholars. The Chriscona German mission has stations and industrial schools in Alexandria and Cairo and at several points along the Nile. The chief missionary agency, however, is that of the United Presbyterian Church of America, begun in 1854, whose central premises are in Cairo. They have *eight* ordained foreign missionaries. They have *six* organized congregations with native pastors and elders, about 900 communicants, and 2000 worshippers. They employ *six* American female teachers, *eleven* native pastors and preachers, and *seventy* native evangelists. "The Presbytery of Egypt" was represented in the late Presbyterian Council by the Rev. S. C. Ewing, one of its members, who stated that there was not among all the Presbyterian Churches a more harmonious and orderly Presbytery.

III. SYRIA. This mission field, immediately north of Palestine, is 150 miles in length with a breadth of about fifty miles. It embraces a population of less than a million—"and a more complex, fragmentary, and antagonistic million cannot be found in any part of the world." One half are Mohammedans, proud, cruel and oppressive. The nominal Christian sects include about 250,000 Maronites, and 150,000 of the Greek Church. The Druzes, numbering about 50,000, are found in the Lebanon region and about Damascus. The Maronites are bigoted Romanists, very ignorant and wholly under the control of the priests and the patriarch. The Druzes are a peculiar race, bold, vigorous, and industrious, but extremely superstitious. They believe in the transmigration of souls. Yet they are, and always have been, the friends of the missionaries. Of late, many of their most enterprising youth are seeking a higher education in the mission seminaries and in the college at Beirut. Light is beginning to make its way among them. Small fragments of the Bedouin Arabs are also met