

SOME INTERESTING INCIDENTS

SHEWING HOW BROAD IS MISSIONARY WORK.

An American traveller writing from the East shews in how many ways true missionary work is done. By their example, their dress, their customs, their cleanliness, they lead the heathen step by step from degradation to the acceptance of the gospel. Some of the incidents related by him are as follows. He says:

"Even the Turks are getting ashamed of their marriage relations because they recognize the inferiority of their wives and daughters to Europeans with whom they are brought in contact.

A Turk sat at the table on the steamer with European and American gentlemen and ladies. We saw him observing them as they were eating, and when they would eat certain kind of food with a fork which he was about to eat with his knife he dropped it and took his fork also. So he learned more in those eight days as to the proprieties of life than he had learned in all his life before. He had his wife and daughter on board, veiled of course, and stowed away out of sight, neither of whom could have eaten except with their hands. When they came to the time of disembarking he stood at the other end of the steamer and they climbed down the ship and into the boat as best they could, and when he thought that the eyes of those who had sat at the table were turned from him he sneaked down and got in the boat with them. This thing will not last in this state of the case, he will not stand the shame much longer, and will break caste and bring his wife and daughter to the table with him.

A missionary's wife, who has done much among the women, was for a time prevented from taking part in direct evangelizing work because she had a family of little children and was confined to her house. But she washed her little baby every day, and the natives, who bind theirs up in rags and never wash them, indeed never wash themselves, watched her, surprised and outraged at first, sure it would kill the baby. But it did not, and so they wash their babies because the missionary's wife, the model lady, washes hers, and they follow the fashions. This Christian mother was doing her common place duty to her family, she could do no more, and

yet she has created a revolution which has, and will do as much lasting good as anything her husband has done in the same length of time, for cleanliness is next to godliness.

A Mohammedan never mentions a woman unless it is absolutely necessary, and then prefaces the allusion by the expression, "Ajellack Allak"—"May God elevate you above the contamination of so vile a subject." One married a woman who had been educated in our school at Beirut. He never could find language in which to express his gratitude, for said he, "She don't curse or swear or raise the devil generally; she don't scold and storm and beat the children, and I have not had to beat her once."

This is genuine missionary work, and will reach the Mohammedans when they are accessible by the removal of the Turkish government from the earth. The fact is clear as day that the gospel of the missionary is a gospel of contrasts which ever challenges to, "look on this and then on that." Heathen countries must be won to Christ by contrasts.

Another example of true missionary work and how it is made effective is in an incident related about the Rev. Samuel Jessup while he was a missionary in Tripoli. He lived near a Turk, who came to him and said, "You have a good wife, a very good wife. I have lived next to you for years, and I have never heard her scold or raise a ripple, or beat her husband or the children, nor has she quarrelled with any of the neighbours." Mrs. Jessup, though one of the most competent and hopeful of the missionaries' wives, never did better work than when she convinced this old Turk that Christian women are peaceful and can master their own spirit, greater in the eyes of the most famous Oriental than he that ruleth a city.

This is the country where women and the ass are on a par in native estimation, and whatever lifts woman is gospel triumph, for the people can never be converted to Christianity until their abominable ideas of woman's inferiority are annihilated. When female children are born the whole family go into a panic of disgust. When a male child is born a sweetmeat or pastry is prepared, made of rice and flour, sweetened and spiced, and is sent to all friends of the family, who are expected to congratulate the happy parents. It was thought to be a desirable