

mission, and with the crying needs and the pressing problems and the deepening conflicts of this nineteenth century challenging her attention, that her warfare is accomplished and she can disband her forces. Islam and all else arrayed in opposition must first give place to Christianity. Our Lord is even now leading His church to this battle ground of sublime privilege and high responsibility. His leadership is our inspiration, His promises our hope, His power our trust, His glory and supremacy our aim and the only possible outcome of the contest.

Christian missions, as related to Mohammedanism and the missionary activity of Islam are just now live themes among readers of our current literature in Europe and America. A prolonged and vigorous debate has arisen in the periodicals of our day, and more especially in Church of England circles, upon this subject, arising from a paper presented by Canon Taylor at the Church of England Congress in 1887. His exaggerated statements of the present progress of Islam have been fully answered by Sir William Hunter. We shall discuss here only his ideal views of Islam as a religion. The whole field is now being searched and discussed by both the friends and critics of missions. Aside from the literary and historic interest which Oriental students would find in the discussion, the whole subject of the propriety, necessity and usefulness of Christian missions to Moslems has come to the front in the debate. It is a matter which under present conditions fairly challenges the attention of Christendom, and as our American Congregational and Presbyterian churches have important and very successful missions in the Turkish Empire, the stronghold of the Moslem faith, it is a subject of interest also to American Christianity. Our American churches have at present a constituency of 70,000 Protestant adherents to their mission churches in the Turkish Empire, including Syria and Egypt. Of this number 15,200 are upon the roll of church membership, and additions to the church at present are at the rate of about 1,500 every year. There are six American colleges in the empire with 1,200 students, and 700 mission schools with 40,000 pupils. The Bible has been translated by American missionaries into every prominent language of the empire, and tens of thousands of copies are annually sold. The mission presses in Turkey, including Syria, print not less than 40,000,000 of pages of religious and educational literature every year, including over 20,000,000 of pages of the Word of God. These converts of whom I have spoken are not, however, from the Moslems—they are from the Oriental Christian churches, among which a reformation work is going on and a purer form of Christianity is being established. There are converts from Islam to Christianity in India and in Egypt, but Moslem converts in any numbers cannot openly at least be won as yet within the limits of the Turkish Empire, for the government will not allow the effort to be made; nor is a Mos-