

II.—INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

EDITED AND CONDUCTED BY REV. J. T. GRACEY, D.D.

Charles Sherard Leach, M.D.

BY REV. LEIGHTON WILLIAMS, D.D.,
NEW YORK CITY.

The death of Dr. Leach, who was recently assassinated at Sfax, Tunis, North Africa, ought not to pass without notice, nor ought his work and his devotion to the cause for which he has fallen a martyr be forgotten.

Dr. Leach's death would appear to be due solely to Mohammedan fanaticism, in a city seldom visited by Europeans, and is only a further example of the exceeding hostility of Mohammedans to the Christian missionary and his religion.

Dr. Leach was a man of gentle, retiring disposition, reserved in manner, and not much of a speaker, but skilful and painstaking as a physician, and he had the respect and affection of the natives in his various fields of labor.

Charles Sherard Leach, son of Surgeon Major Leach of the British Army in India, was born in Burmah in 1860, and graduated from the Royal College of Surgeons, London. Later he was a student of the International Medical Missionary Society, and took some post-graduate course in New York City. He was induced to go out with the Rev. Mr. Powell, an independent missionary in Algiers, contrary to my persuasion. I very much doubted the expediency of his going. Mr. Powell, in a fit of temporary insanity, took the life of one of his children, and then his own life. Dr. Leach, after this, started a mission to the Kabyles, but the mission failed for want of support. He thereupon took up Mr. Powell's work again, and continued to labor alone for some time, and later accepted an appointment to work for the North African Mission. He was removed by that society some years since to North Tunis,

where he labored until his transfer to Sfax in August, 1895, with such sad results.

Dr. Leach married an English lady who was laboring as a missionary among the sailors in Marseilles, where he met her on his way to Africa.

The account of the murder of Dr. Leach, his wife, and their elder child, a little boy six years of age, as given in the *Daily Telegraph*, London, May 9th, 1896, says they fled from room to room as their assailants advanced, and the last stand was made in their bed chamber, the door of which had been broken down. When the victims were discovered by the commissary of police and the British vice-consul, the doctor was found lying dead on the floor, with ten ghastly wounds inflicted by a dagger and an axe. His wife had been stabbed in four places, and was also lifeless, while the little lad had sustained a fearful gash in the neck. Only the baby, which was still in its cradle, had been spared. The *Telegraph* said: "Dr. Leach was a mild and amiable man, and was not known to have any enemies. He was thirty-five years of age. Besides his mission work, he looked after a dispensary for the Arabs."

The following excerpts from a letter written to Amity Baptist Church, New York City, will prove of interest to a much wider circle than that to which it was immediately addressed.

"Our work in Tunis lies principally among the Mussulman population of the city and outlying villages. It is estimated that there are in the capital upward of one hundred thousand Mohammedans, and how many missionaries do you think there are to point these thousands to the cross—to the Lamb of God, who alone is able to take away their sin, as well as the whole world? Just about ten, and a large number of these are only beginners,