

last amount received by me on behalf of the poor Syrians ; allow me to assure the donors that it has tended much to alleviate the sufferings of some who have returned to Syria, and about forty who still remain here.

From October 30th, to the present time,—

Food.....	2443 piastres.
Clothing.....	1285
Fuel and Candles.....	750
Bedding, &c.,.....	625
Passage-money and food to Beyrout for three persons.....	750
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One Sunday I visited the people and held a short service in Arabic ; they appeared deeply interested, and listened most attentively. My text was Hebrews ii. 9. ‘But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour ; that He by the grace of God should taste death for every man.’ When the address was ended, a poor woman came to me and said, ‘But what are we to do with our blessed Virgin Mary ? You have not once mentioned her name, and you say prayers are only to be offered through Jesus Christ.’ Others said, ‘And our patron saints also ? we cannot do without them, for we are taught morning and evening to address our prayers to them.’ I replied, ‘Before I was enlightened I did the same, and daily petitioned Saint Anthony ; but I found this was useless, for instead of praying to the Creator the creature was addressed ;’ and then I showed them that these holy men were our examples, and that we should ask God for help to enable us to follow their steps.

A short time ago I met with a Turkish priest, and entered into a long conversation with him, a sketch of which will interest you ; the subject was, ‘Jesus and Mohammed ;’ he openly confesses the falsehood of the Mussulman religion, and more than once said, ‘I pray thee tell me, is Mohammed a true or a false prophet ?’ ‘He is false,’ I replied. ‘How can you prove this ?’ ‘By comparison with Jesus : look at the meekness of Jesus and the fanaticism of Mohammed ; the love, gentleness, humility, and kindness of our Saviour, contrasted with the cruelty, pride, and haughtiness of your prophet ; compare the words of Jesus, “all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword,” with the legend of the two-edged sword of Mohammed ; also, ‘whoso looketh upon a woman,’ &c., with the licentious habits permitted by the Coran. These things appeared to strike forcibly, and he said, ‘Truly I believe that Jesus is the Son of God.’ The doctrine of the Trinity is, however, quite incomprehensible to him, and he cannot understand why we offer prayer through Jesus. I endeavoured to explain to him that we cannot love God truly without keeping His commandments, and He has ordained that our Saviour should be the Mediator. I trust with God’s help that this man may be brought from darkness into the glorious light of the Gospel