

provocation; and beside the ordinary hubbub of a crowd, the air is filled with numerous street vendors, crying their wares in a score of keys, and a hundred intonations. Here are the sherbet sellers, with great jars over their shoulders, full of the sweet mixture, supposed to be cooled with ice from Lebanon; and they rattle their brass cups between fingers and thumb, as they cry continuously, "Oh, cheer thine heart; oh, cheer thine heart!" Here are the bread sellers, crying out, "O Allah, that sustainest us, send trade." Here are sellers of nuts, fruits, liquorice water, sweetmeats, indeed, of everything that can be hawked around the street, and their peculiar cries sound above everything else. And such a crowd, such variety of feature and expression, such brilliancy of color in dress. White turbans, kumbazes of softest texture and color, kumbazes of vivid stripe and shade, loose outer robes of blue or lemon yellow, mingling and commingling in ever varying combinations. But it is the men who are thus brilliantly and gracefully dressed. Look at those bolster-like objects, all in white—shapeless, moving bundles—these are the women. They are without grace of form or motion, and utterly without dignity; these they possess, no doubt, but they are so securely tied up in these waddling bundles of Oriental propriety that you cannot even guess at their existence.

The most interesting sight in Damascus is the bazaars. Imagine long avenues roofed over, lined on both sides with open shops, or rather stalls, for your eastern shop is very like a square packing-case, with a flat board in front as a counter, behind which the proprietor sits in solemn patience for the customers Allah may send him. These stalls are filled, shelf upon shelf, pile upon pile, with the wares to the vending of which they are devoted. In Damascus each trade or manufacture has a bazaar of its own. There is the saddler's bazaar filled with the gay trappings, and cumbersome saddles which the Arabs delight in. There is the silk bazaar, with piles and piles of gorgeous silks, brilliant in color and beautiful in design; robes of exquisite softness of texture and tint; shawls fit for the shoulders of an empress, sashes, kefiyehs, caftans. There is the fez bazaar, where stall after stall is devoted to the sale of tarbooses, and all the variety of caps worn under the turban and kefiyeh.

In addition to the fact that we increased last year the size of the BANNER from thirty-two to forty-eight and in some cases fifty-two pages, with the purpose to leave no effort unspared of increasing its efficiency, we give with the January number a colored map of Palestine and other Bible lands, specially prepared to illustrate the lessons for 1892. This has cost a very considerable sum, as it had to be printed on specially prepared paper and pasted by hand in each copy of the BANNER. We shall spare no cost, however, to make the BANNER as good as we can make it, in the interest of our schools.

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W. H. WITHROW, D.D., EDITOR.

TORONTO, DECEMBER, 1891.

Sunday-schools and Missions.

It will be a great gratification for our friends to know that the Methodist Sunday-schools of the Dominion, Newfoundland, and Bermuda have done so nobly for the cause of missions in the past eleven years. The following statement from the Mission Rooms will show the steady increase year after year till the noble aggregate of over a quarter of a million has been reached by the Christmas offering of the schools. We hope that this year a special offering will be made not only to make up the slight falling off of last year, but also to go ahead of the largest sum hitherto raised. Crops are good, prices of farm produce are high, our Chinese Missions ought to create fresh enthusiasm. Our Indian and French Missions are a cause for devout gratitude to God.

The following are the amounts of the missionary juvenile offerings during the past eleven years:

1880-81	.....	\$17,054 45
1881-82	.....	21,580 38
1882-83	.....	23,235 37
1883-84	.....	22,584 79
1884-85	.....	23,852 60
1885-86	.....	24,111 31
1886-87	.....	25,526 71
1887-88	.....	27,915 83
1888-89	.....	27,851 62
1889-90	.....	28,122 39
1890-91	.....	26,212 98

Total \$268,048 43