

proved a valuable auxiliary to the American Board in carrying on their work in these lands. This English Society was instituted in 1857, not for the purpose of founding new missions of its own, but to aid the missions of the American Board. The Earl of Shaftesbury at one of its anniversaries paid this high tribute to the work of the American Board. "I do not believe," he said, "that in the whole history of missions, I do not believe that in the history of diplomacy, or in the history of any negotiation carried on between man and man, we can find anything to equal the wisdom, the soundness, and the pure Evangelical truth of the men who constitute the American Mission..... they are a marvellous combination of common sense and piety." It is scarcely necessary to add that the Press has all along been one of the most powerful and efficient agencies used by the Board. From 40,000 to 60,000 copies and portions of the Scriptures are put into circulation yearly, by the agencies of the American and the British and Foreign Bible Societies at Constantinople, in the different languages of the Empire; so that Bulgarian, Turk, and Armenian have now free access to the Word of God and to an extensive range of Christian literature, besides, in their own tongues. Illustrated monthly magazines for the children find their way into almost every town and village. Tracts and School-books, Bible-Dictionaries, Commentaries and Concordances, "Confessions of Faith," Treatises on Philosophy, Science, and Theology may be obtained every where. What Goodell, Dwight, Jonas King, Riggs and their coadjutors have done for literature in the West, has been equally well done by Dr. Eli Smith and Dr. Vandyk in Syria. "Through their scholarly labours the Beirut press has produced one of the most accurate and beautiful translations of the Scriptures to be found in any language, and of which many thousand copies have been circulated."

Such is the "heaven" that in the providence of God has been skillfully deposited, and is now working in these seven missionary fields of this great Empire. Can it be doubted that it is destined to leaven "the whole lump." Mohammedanism, as was stated at the outset, is very difficult to deal with, but the building up of a vigorous, self-propagating protestantism, and the manifestation and presentation of "religion pure and undefiled" in and around the strongholds of Islam will certainly, sooner or later, solve the problem. There are elements in the system which may not be left out of the discussion, and which if fairly considered removes the solution of the difficulty from the sphere of impossibilities. These, among others, are mentioned by Dr. Jessup, of Beirut, whose residence for twenty-four years

in Syria entitle him to speak authoritatively on this question:—(1) The Mohammedans believe in the unity of God. (2) They reverence the Old and New Testament Scriptures. (3) They reverence Christ as the greatest of all the prophets before Mohammed. (4) While regarding all but themselves as infidels, they have some respect for Christians and Jews, as "the people of a book." (5) They hate idols and idolatry with perfect hatred. (6) They reverence Law. (7) They practise total abstinence from intoxicating drinks. (8) They have no respect for a man who has no religion. (9) They have implicit confidence in the word of an Englishman. (10) They believe that Protestantism is the purest form of faith in the world—the nearest in doctrine and worship to their own. (11) They are beginning to repose confidence in the integrity of the American Missionaries. (12) It is the common belief of the Moslem that in the latter days there will be a universal apostacy from Islam—when the true faith, as they account it, will cease to exist. These additional facts may be taken for what they are worth:—Seventy Mohammedan boys and seventy Mohammedan girls attend the protestant mission-schools in Cairo. Of 132 girls attending the protestant female school at Sidon, ninety are Mohammedans. Of the 4780 girls who attend the protestant schools of Syria, one thousand are Mohammedans. If all other means fail to draw the Osmanli to Christ, it may be that the words of Isaiah shall yet be verified in their experience "AND A LITTLE CHILD SHALL LEAD THEM." C.

SYNOD OF HAMILTON AND LONDON.
—This Synod met in Zion Church, Brantford, on the evening of the 11th. of April, and continued its sittings until midnight of the 13th, all present agreeing that a more profitable meeting, whether as regards numbers or good feeling, had not been held since the Union in 1875. The Rev. Dr. Bell of Walkerton preached the opening sermon. Rev. John Thompson of Sarnia was elected Moderator. A number of references and appeals were disposed of. The Reports on the State of Religion within the bounds of the Synod were listened to with great interest by a large congregation. A Reception was held at the Young Ladies' College which was largely attended by the members. The Synod heartily endorsed the proposal to raise a fund of \$12,000 on behalf of the Library of Knox College, Toronto. It was agreed to issue a Synodical letter on Sabbath-observance. The Committee on public education reported and was continued. An overture on Psalmody was transmitted to the General Assembly. W. COBBRANE, D.D. *Clk.*