

MISSION FIELD.

THE CHURCH IN THE EAST.

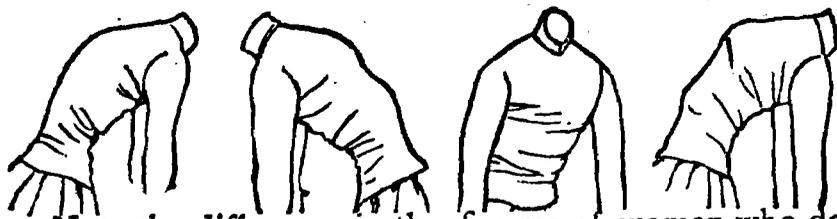
Some questions having been asked us concerning this work, a few facts that possibly have been taken for granted may be of interest. The Assyrian Church is one of the most ancient of Christian Churches, founded in apostolic days. Overwhelmed by the Mahomedans, it was not destroyed, but has maintained its existence and its three-fold orders of the ministry in unbroken succession to the present day. A thousand years of persecution has not destroyed it nor the greatest advantages of sorely needed education induced them to forsake the three-fold ministry and liturgical worship for any more modern form. Our Presbyterian brethren, greatly to their credit, have been active for years in furnishing much-needed education and Christian instruction to the people of Persia. Still when, as now, the Archbishop of Canterbury began to make earnest efforts to raise up the ancient Church, these Christians recognized and acknowledged the kinship between the Anglican Church and their own. Two English priests (Canon Macbean and W. H. Browne) are at the head of the English mission.

The work undertaken embraces 1, a theological school; 2, village schools; 3, restoration of churches; 4, editing and printing the Syriac liturgy.

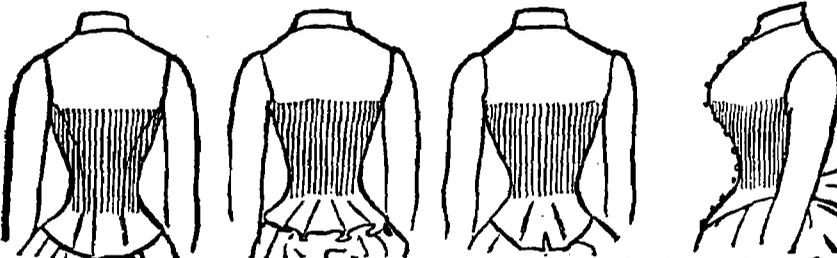
There are no means of education furnished by the country except high priced private schools. Consequently no education is attainable by the masses except through Christian schools. Although the Christians are forbidden to proselyte, yet at their own places they may teach and preach. And the Jews, Fire Worshipers, and Mahomedans allow their children to receive Christian training in the schools for the sake of the education. When there for five months in every year from 50 to 70 children can be taught Christianity for a total expense of twenty-five dollars, it seems as if these schools ought to be indefinitely multiplied and maintained for a term of years, for in no field of Christian work can \$25 accomplish so much. American Churchmen are waking up to this fact, and none who have heard Rev. Y. M. Neesan's persuasive, gentle eloquence, would have lost the opportunity of hearing the story or contributing to the work. Verily in God's providence a door is opened wide in Persia, and through these 75,000 Christians it may yet be said, as of old, "And so all Asia heard the Word of God."

We subjoin the prayers for the Syriac Church put forth by Bishop H. C. Potter, of New York:—

Gracious Father, we humbly beseech Thee for Thy Holy Catholic Church, especially Thine ancient Church in Syria. Fill it with all truth, and in all truth with all peace; where it is corrupt, purge it; where it is in error, direct it; where it is dark, enlighten it; where it is superstitious, rectify it;



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where anything is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen and confirm it; where it is in want, furnish it; where it is divided and rent asunder, heal the breaches thereof, O Thou Holy one of Israel, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

Revive, O Lord, in the midst of the years, revive Thy work, O Lord. Gather together Thy dispersed sheep, scattered throughout the world, into one fold under one Shepherd; and grant that through the operation of the Holy Spirit the labors of the Syrian Church may be made effectual for the conversion of Asia. Send forth laborers into Thy harvest and defend them by Thy mighty power, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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