

Apostles. For centuries Christians were in the eyes of Mohammedans the teachers of a sham religion which could be only overcome in its vile influence by a new Church exemplifying holy doctrines in a holy life. That Church has now grown to more than a hundred and fifty churches, not a few of whose members have borne witness by their death to their faith in Christianity. Among them have been converts from the Armenians, Nestorians, Jacobites, Maronites and Copts.

The American Board missionaries set up the first printing press in the Turkish Empire, transferred in 1834 from Malta to Beyrout. There had been a rude hand-press in the chapel of a Greek monastery, but its sole office was to print books for the priests. Already the Protestant press has given to Western and Southern Asia and Northern Africa 500,000,000 pages in the Arabic language, and is printing 500,000 annually. Its publications are scattered over one hundred and twenty degrees of longitude, from the Atlantic to the Yellow Sea.

American Board missionaries founded in 1835, at Beyrout, the first day-school for girls in the Turkish Empire. Mohammedan young men showed a preference for girls who could read, and the schools were crowded, until public sentiment had so changed that all the various sects had girls' schools of their own. But the boys were not neglected, and in 1837 the first boarding-school for them in the Turkish Empire was opened by Dr. William M. Thompson. The next special feature was the founding, in 1863, of the two great colleges at Beyrout and Constantinople, whose graduates are to be found in South-eastern Europe, Western Asia, North Africa, and even in Australia, South America and the United States. Those early missionaries—Drs. Eli Smith and Cornelius Van Dyck—who gave to the world the first correct, classical translation of the Bible into the Arabic language, of which probably not less than half a million have been sent out in thirty-two different editions all over the Arabic-speaking world.

An intensely practical side of mission work was illustrated by the fact that missionaries first introduced into Syria steam printing presses, petroleum oil, sewing machines, photography, brass clocks, windmills, as well as American agricultural implements, and even the electric telegraph. Two missionaries were pioneers in modern archeological explorations in Palestine, and their contributions to Biblical study have been among the most valuable.

Grand service was rendered in pestilence, famine and war by these missionaries, men and women, who, while maintaining the strictest neutrality, taught lessons of kindness and love to sick and wounded, and to all faiths and races alike. In 1860 the missionaries in Beyrout distributed not less than one hundred thousand dollars in food and one hundred thousand garments to the refugees in Sabanai and Damascus. They have always been on the side of peace, with no political aims, no personal interests to promote, believing that the powers that be are to be obeyed as they are ordained of God.

We were delayed here three days, and found a charming home in the house of a Greek with a motherly Syrian wife. The fragrance of the jasmine and magnolia garden was a perpetual