

It is very desirable that at least all the office-bearers of our Church should become intimately acquainted with the current life, work, and history of our Church—should know the names and the location of all our presbyteries, of all our foreign missionaries, and be familiar with the main aspects of our home work—our colleges, our work among the Indians, our French Evangelization, our efforts to overtake evangelistic work in the five synods and the forty-six presbyteries which are included in our General Assembly. No better hand-book or history of the current life and work of the church can be found than this volume of minutes and appendices.

HOW SHALL MOHAMMEDANS BE EVANGELIZED.

This subject is thoughtfully discussed in the *Missionary Review* by "One Who Has Lived Forty Years in the Turkish Empire," and who has evidently been a close observer of the world around him. There are peculiar difficulties in bringing the Gospel to bear on the disciples of Islam, and in Turkey these difficulties are aggravated. It is hard to find access to the people. They will not come to the churches. They will not visit Christian families, nor will they invite missionaries to enter their houses. The women are carefully secluded in the harems. The Mohammedans are a proud people. They consider themselves the favourites of Heaven, true believers, elect, saved. Christians are but "dogs" and wholly contemptible. There is a good deal of truth commingled with the errors of Islam, and this greatly increases its strength. It fortifies itself in its self-righteousness—fastings, prayers, pilgrimages, ablutions, almsgivings, that are a sure passport to Paradise. It puts no restraint on human vice and passion. A man may, in fact, be most vile, yet account himself a saint. In the Turkish empire Islam is the state religion, and it is largely identified with patriotism. Any Moslem turning Christian incurs the penalty of death. The religion propagated by the sword will be maintained by the sword so long as civil power remains in Mohammedan hands. Most unfortunately the forms of Christianity which have confronted Mohammedanism have been and are for the most part very corrupt, and very far from being true to the great Original. It seems that apostate Syrian Christians are among the most active agents in maligning

Christianity and in advancing the faith of the false prophet. A man named Shidiak, once an employee of the British and Foreign Bible Society, and a translator of the New Testament into Arabic, is an illustration in point. He has published a book filled with the bitterest calumnies against the Bible and Christianity. There is in Western Asia no liberty of the press or of speech, so that the calumnies of Mohammedans cannot be publicly refuted. Christianity has some allies and is making some progress. The progress of human knowledge and thought is against Islam. Every new discovery is a protest against its errors. All advances in science expose its fallacies. Mohammedanism knows nothing of sin and forgiveness, and of conversion to God; it knows nothing of a "Father in Heaven." In this it is utterly a contrast to the religion of Christ. The decay and dissolution of the Turkish empire will prepare the way for the triumph of the Gospel. In India and in Egypt, where there is liberty under British rule, conversions are by no means rare. The circulation of the Bible has helped to bring the true light to the followers of the false prophet. Another means of grace is education in Christian schools. Schools of the right stamp are the sappers and miners of the strong towers of error. Boarding-schools for Moslem girls have done much good. Bible-women visiting the Moslem harems, teaching the women to read, and reading to them the Bible, has proved an effective agency. At present, women have better opportunities than men of evangelizing Moslems. Medical and hospital work affords rare vantage ground for evangelical teaching of Moslems. One-tenth or one-eighth of the human race are of the faith of Islam, and the conversion of such people to the faith of Christ is a subject of transcendent importance. For this religion to-day largely occupies the fields where Christianity won its earliest triumphs. It is aggressive, especially in Africa; and its influence everywhere is injurious.

"If this book is right," said an old Roman Catholic to his wife, on reading the New Testament, "we are *wrong*." Three weeks after he said: "If this book is right we are *lost*." Three weeks after he said, as he continued reading: "Wife, if this book is right, we are *saved*."