

notorious corruption of officials, with rapid changes in the ministry; troubles and outbreaks in outlying portions of the empire, with the weakness of the central government; and the gross ignorance which prevails among the several nationalities, to be persuaded that while this bundle of peoples, so diverse from each other, has been held together thus far by a special Providence, the time is at hand when, either by a sudden and extensive revolution, or by the quiet operation of powerful principles, political and social life within the Turkish empire will become more healthy and prosperous than now.

The gospel of Christ is the healer of the nations, and the extensive reception of Bible truth would be the salvation of Turkey in every sense. Has any progress been made in this direction? None seemingly adequate to the great result of securing a social reformation throughout the empire at large. Yet let us not despise the day of small things. The American missions have been wonderfully successful in Syria, Asia Minor, and Roumelia; while other Christian Societies have been privileged to kindle a light in various parts of Turkey, and within Constantinople itself. Hitherto, however, the gospel has made way mainly among the Rayah population. Till recently the Mohammedans were unapproachable. Now times are changed. While, in some quarters, Moslem fanaticism has broken forth into bloody excesses, in other places, especially in Constantinople, there is the utmost readiness, on the part of Mohammedans to listen to the truth. The Turks are beginning to feel that the crescent must give way to the cross, and a persuasion of the approaching downfall of Islam is paving the way for the reception of the gospel. At this moment several missionaries are engaged in seeking the good of the deluded Turks. Perhaps the most eminent of these is Dr Pfander, so well known by his successful labors in Northern India. In the Providence of God the Free Church has been brought into the same field. Our sole agent, it will be remembered, is Mr Philip O'Flaherty. We have abundant evidence of his diligence and success. He seems to possess peculiar aptitude for a kind of pioneer work, which is specially called for at this stage of Mohammedan missions. He visits the coffee-houses, and moves about on land and water, seeking op-

portunities of conversing with Mohammedans. Having considerable linguistic powers, and being possessed of tact and readiness, he manages in the course of conversation to introduce the great gospel themes, and not a few, arrested in this way have come to his house for private instruction in the things of the kingdom.

The Church has every encouragement to persevere in the support of this mission, and to reach forward towards an expansion of it. The committee charged with the management of the matter have just taken a step which requires to be explained. Application has been made to three hundred ladies, in as many congregations, to raise not less than £1 each during the current year for the continuance of the mission. It is earnestly hoped that not only will these ladies undertake the charge, but that many throughout the Church will take a lively and practical interest in the attempt we are now making to effect a breach in the fabric of Mohammedan superstition, which yet constitutes so great a barrier to the triumphant progress of the Redeemer's progress in the East.—*Free Church Record for Oct.*

#### OUR TURKISH MISSION.

We regret to learn that Mr O'Flaherty is at present suffering from illness, brought on by his too abundant labours. His medical attendant has ordered him to take entire rest for six weeks, when he hopes he will be restored to health and work. The following is an extract from Mr O'Flaherty's deeply interesting private letters, which are full of similar instances.

"You will observe an interesting feature in last month's account, namely, twenty-four visits made at my own house to enquire more fully into the gospel plan and its leading truths. I always am glad of such visits. . . . Another particular I would like to mention is, that a few friends whom I visit, invite their friends—nine or ten—so that we may form a prayer-meeting. But let me now tell you of one or two cases which happened lately. A clever and respectable young man, who had met me several times, came to my house, together with a captain of police, a friend of his, to enquire more thoroughly into the subject of Christianity. We searched the Scriptures for a few hours. He expressed his satisfaction as to the doc-