

The Mission Crisis.

TURKEY.

THERE is no other country which has such a great and varied mass of interest attaching to it as what is now known as the Turkish Empire. Here, in all likelihood, was the early home of the race. Here lived holy men of old—patriarchs, prophets and apostles—to whom were granted such visions of the Almighty as made the scenes of these sacred and forever memorable. This is the land which, more than any other, has impressed its character upon the Bible. Its mountains and valleys, its rivers and seas, its fields and fruits, as well as its climate and soil, affect and enter into the composition of the sacred Book to such an extent that, apart entirely from other evidence, there is no room to doubt what land gave it birth. How strange it is that the countries where both Judaism and Christianity had their origin and early development should now be the possession of the infidel Turk, and be governed by the successor of Mohammed. Yet so it is. Bible lands set forth, in our day, the same lesson they did in the times of Israel's humiliation and captivity—viz., that as idolatry is countenanced in the church the divine favour and presence depart from her, leaving her weak and incapable to stand before her enemies. A distinguished rabbi once said that the captivity forever cured the Hebrews of idolatry, but the ancient churches of the East have yet to learn the lesson, for they are still joined to their idols. For centuries past the seats of early Christianity have continued to be trodden down by the enemy, but the church thus far has lacked either the ability or the right measure of jealousy for the honour of God and His cause to win them back.

Great credit is due the Presbyterian Church in Canada in undertaking to send missionaries to Turkey, notwithstanding the many fields she has already entered and is now occupying with marked success. Although young in years and carrying on a great mission on her own soil, she has not taken so long as others to perceive that it is her privilege and her duty to labour also for races from whom we received the heritage of the gospel. Seeing then that the