

but, is the curse about to be removed from the land, and is the Euphrates about to be dried up *physically* as well as *morally*? Is the wonderful fertility of this extraordinary flat (400 miles long and 100 wide) unbroken, save by ruins—is this fertility celebrated in history again to return? To restore to health and fertility a country the half of which is lying waste from lack of water, while the other half is a marsh from too much water, requires first, a railroad, and then, the opening of the ancient canals. With its waters carefully and properly applied and husbanded the Euphrates would convert the whole valley into one great garden with two harvests of wheat in a year, and returns as high, according to ancient historians, as two hundred, or even three hundred-fold.

3. A matter, however, of deeper interest to the Christian is the question of converting Asiatic Turkey to the faith of Christ. "It is one of the marvels of Christian history," says Dr. Jessup of Syria, "that after the lapse of nearly two thousand years the birth-place of Christianity is missionary ground. The lands of the Bible ask for the Word of God. The birth-place of religion needs a religion. The moral and religious conflicts of the past are to be repeated by the armies of the truth in the very seat of their ancient victories. The encampments of the Prince of Darkness, like the black tents of the Bedouins, cover the lands where prophets and apostles preached."

It has now come round, in the course of God's Providence, that Western Asia, the cradle of the human race, and also of Christianity, is to be once again the battle-ground of religious opinion. On this occasion, as in former times, the battle will no doubt be severe and protracted, but we have good hopes that it will issue in victory, this time, full and final, for Christ and his Church.

The chief religious systems of Western Asia, with which this battle is to be fought to-day, are *Mohammedanism*, *Paganism*, and corrupt *Christianity*.

1. The MAHOMETAN religion prevails largely through Arabia, Syria, Palestine, Persia, and Northern India, to Peking; and presents