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MOHAMMEDANS IN PERSIA.

Among other encouragements to labour for the conversion of Moslems, the Rev. J. H. Shedd, in *The Church at Home and Abroad*, mentions:

Their regard for the Holy Scriptures: By the Koran the holy books of Jews and Christians are affirmed to be from God, and are commended to be read. This renders it incumbent on all Moslem rulers and teachers to treat the Old and New Testaments with the respect due to holy books and to sanction their circulation. Sometimes the sale of the Bible is forbidden, but the position is inconsistent and soon gives way, and then there is the fullest right for Christians to sell their Scriptures to all who will buy. Here is certainly a powerful leverage. The way is open for colporteurs to visit every town and village of Persia with the word of life. This is being done with the sale of several thousand copies annually that are read by increasing thousands of Moslems, many of them leading minds in the land.

A native Christian was in the market. A Moslem trader invited him to enter a little room back of his stall, and then said, "Here is my book. I am a brother in your faith. A company of us meet at night and study this Word of God, and we believe in Christ as you do. We do not openly confess to be Christians, for you know the time has not come for that."

Again: A short time ago a missionary and his companion reached a large Moslem village at the eventide, not knowing who in a place so bigoted would receive Christian guests. Judge of their surprise as a man came out and not only pressed them to tarry for the night, but warmly embraced them as brothers. They found he was a reader and had a copy of the New Testament. A company of a dozen or more men came regularly to be his disciples and listen to his reading. The company have ceased to worship at the mosque, are looked upon as reprobates, and are suffering persecution for Christ's sake. They need instruction. How many such companies, in the manner of the early Christians, hold their night meetings to study the Bible, missionaries cannot tell. But God's eye sees them and His Spirit enlightens.

PERSIA: A CONTRAST.

The circulation of the Scriptures is one of the bright features of the work in Persia. Thousands of copies of the Bible, or portions of it, have been distributed by sale or grant, and in the Teheran district the work has encountered but little opposition.

It is curious to note how this feature of Christian effort contrasts with the practice of Moslems as to their sacred book. A missionary who had been in the country a few months only wished to test their reported unwillingness to sell the Koran to a Christian. He inquired in the bazaar for an interlinear Persian and Arabic Koran. Various excuses were offered, but one man bluntly said, "I will not sell it to you!" At last he obtained a copy at a high price. In his indiscretion he returned, and in triumph showed his purchase to the one who had refused to sell it to him. The effect was magical. The man leaped from his little stall, ran to his fellow merchants, and in an instant a crowd began to gather. The unfortunate seller immediately came, proffering the money, and demanding back the book. It was deemed prudent to comply with the demand. They cannot endure the sight of a Koran in the hands of an "infidel." We, on the other hand, have such confidence in the potency of the printed word of God that its circulation among the Moslems causes us to rejoice.—*Rev. J. L. Potter in The Church at Home and Abroad.*