

## III.—FIELD OF MONTHLY SURVEY.

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Turkish Empire,\* Persia,† Arabia,‡ North Africa,§ Russia,|| Oriental Christianity,¶ Mohammedanism.\*\*

## MISSIONS IN TURKEY.

Modern missions in Turkey were begun about 1805 by the colporteurs of the British and Foreign Bible Society. These were followed in 1819 by representatives of the American Board. The inhabitants of Asiatic Turkey adhere chiefly to Islam, Judaism, or one of the Oriental sects of Christianity. Work among the Moslems, openly at least, was soon found to be impracticable, and still proves to be so. Jewish missions are chiefly carried on by Scotch

Presbyterians, Church of England missionaries, and various independent societies and individuals. The most fruitful field for labor was found to be that among the Oriental churches—Christian sects that had long since lost their vitality and often their morality, by constant contact with the Moslems around them, and by their failure to make a practical use of the Word of God. These sects include the Armenians, Greek, Bulgarian, Nestorian, Jacobite, Maronite, and Chaldean sects—all of them having become more or less removed from apostolic life and doctrine. The first idea of the missionaries was to reform the churches among which they labored, but while many welcomed the new light and life, the opposition of the ecclesiastical leaders and their persecution of converts soon necessitated the formation of an independent evangelical church. The work in Asiatic Turkey has been carried on chiefly among the Armenians and Greeks, and has now grown to be large and flourishing. The recent persecutions have almost put a stop to all progress, and have rendered the outlook dark, if not discouraging. The effect of the massacres has been, on the one hand, to put a stop to the active educational and evangelistic work, and to bring to most extreme poverty and distress all Christian sects; on the other hand, these times of trouble have shown to the people among whom they labor, and to the whole world, the heroic character of the missionaries, and has thus opened the hearts of natives on the field for further instruction, and has loosed the purse-strings of Christians at home to help carry on the work.

The American Board is the most important agency in the field. Their work covers the whole of Asia Minor

\* See also pp. 50 (January); 119, 129 (February); 161, 193, 204 (March); 232, 235 (April); 383 (May); 431, 451 (June); 501 (July); 601, 613 (August); 685 (September); 776 (present issue). *New Books*: "Constantinople," E. A. Grosvenor; "The Rule of the Turk," F. D. Greene; "Turkey and the Armenian Atrocities," E. A. Bliss. *Recent Articles*: "The Sultan of Turkey," *Review of Reviews* (January and February); "Armenian Massacre," *Christian Literature Magazine* (February); *Missionary Herald* (monthly).

† See also p. 729 (present issue). *New Books*: "Persia and the Persians," S. G. Wilson. *Recent Articles*: "On Things Persian," *Fortnightly Review* (June); "The Land of the Shah," *Godey's* (July); *Church at Home and Abroad* (October).

‡ See also p. 735 (present issue). *Recent Articles*: "Egypt and its Frontier," *Fortnightly Review* (April); *Mission Field* (monthly).

§ See also pp. 436, 543 (July). *Recent Articles*: "Female Life in Morocco," *Church at Home and Abroad* (January); "Morocco," *Chambers' Journal* (June); "Africa North of the Equator," *Contemporary Review* (July); *North Africa* (monthly).

|| See also pp. 142 (February); 740 (present issue). *New Books*: "The Empire of the Tsars and the Russians," Anatole Leroy-Beaulieu. *Recent Articles*: "Russia, Persia and England," *Nineteenth Century* (July); "The Apotheosis of Russia," *Blackwood's* (July).

¶ See pp. 198 (March); 436 (June); 750 (present issue.)

\*\* See also p. 753 (present issue). *Recent articles*: "Mohammedanism in Paris," *Cosmopolitan* (March); "Some Fallacies about Islam," *Fortnightly Review* (April).