

## Dr. Zwemer at Walmer Road

Dr. Samuel M. Zwemer, of Arabia, Egypt, America, visited Toronto the week of January 14th. Dr. Zwemer has been long recognized because of his wide and accurate knowledge, because of his long experience, and because of his consecrated interest, our greatest missionary authority on the Moslem World—and therefore this week brought to the church hosts of Toronto another opportunity to see a vision of the needy world, and another necessity to answer a challenge of their duty towards it.

Dr. Zwemer addressed gathering after gathering for five days—University students, individuals, churches, denominational rallies, mass meetings, men's and women's clubs. On Monday evening, January 15th, the Baptists gathered in Walmer Road Church, a great audience filling area and galleries to hear an address announced as "The Mohammedan World in Relation to India." The minister of Walmer Road Church, Dr. MacNeill, presided, and with him on the platform were Rev. H. C. Priest and Rev. H. E. Stillwell.

Dr. Zwemer's opening words were an acknowledgment of the consecration of his mother, and the prayers of his father, as being the influences which sent him into the mission fields. With this and a sentence or two showing his intimate knowledge of, and interest in our own mission fields, especially India, he turned to his subject, which, with no apology, he changed to "The Whole World in Relation to God." He based his address on, and quoted many times in the course of it, "Thy will be done," and "Lo, I come; in the volume of the Book it is written, I come to do Thy will, O God." To get any understanding of the subject and the texts, one must clearly understand what is the will of God

and what this world is in which we pray that it shall be done.

So many assert it to be a pessimistic world. Certainly Luthrop Stoddard does when writing his much-read books, "The Rising Tide of Color," "The New World of Islam," and "The Revolt Against Civilization." A pessimist has been defined as a man who blows out the candle to see how dark it is, and surely these books give facts, but give them without the light of the candle. They forget that the yellow race, depicted as so threatening, is not the yellow peril, but a golden opportunity, and the black race is not only a rising tide, but God's image carved in ebony.

It is certainly a world disappointed from war. What country is happier for the war? France, Germany, Italy, Austria, Turkey, Belgium, Britain—not one. To quote Robert Louis Stevenson, the human race is "still living on islands shouting lies at each other across seas of misunderstanding."

It is a desperate world. Zionism, Islamism, Bolshevism, commercialism, all rising as cures for desperate ills, and all striking at one another with deadly enmity. And it is a sorrowing and suffering world. "How long, O Lord, how long?" goes up the cry of heart-agony from individuals and nations—from the shifting populations of the Mohammedan countries, from the tortured Armenians, from the orphans more in number than ever before in the history of the world, from the 150,000 Christian young women with their holy memories forced into Moslem marriages.

And yet it is also a world of marvellous opportunity and accessibility. Surely so when a famine in the Antipodes changes the price of wheat in Chicago; when an earthquake in Chili is registered on the seismograph here.

At least one benefit from the war is the building of railroads and the automo-