

MOHAMMED.

"Who was he?" some of our boys and girls are asking. He was born at Mecca, a town in Arabia, in the year 571. As he was left an orphan when six years old, his grandfather and uncles took care of him until he was able to work, when he became a shepherd. When he grew up to be a man he married a rich widow named Khadija. She loved him very much. At forty years of age he began to tell of strange dreams or visions that he had, calling him to be an apostle of the Lord. Arabia had three different religions at that time, heathenism, Judaism and Christianity. Sacred stones were worshipped by the heathen, also the sun, moon and stars. Temples and priests were all around Mohammed's home. A few Christians had sought refuge from persecution in that land. The Jews were the most influential part of the population as they could read and write, while the Arabs could not, so they called the Jews, "the people of the book." When Mohammed wanted to get the people to follow him he had a book made up called the Koran, and said it had come down from God and from the angel Gabriel to him. His followers had to pray often, give alms to all who needed help, fast many days, and, if possible, make a pilgrimage to Mecca. Five times a day every true Mohammedan will throw himself on the ground and shout his prayers aloud. They believe there is only one God and that Mohammed comes next to him. They make no room in their hearts for Jesus Christ. Their daily lives are often very wicked. One of them said to a Christian, "Our clothes are wide, easy, flowing; so is our religion. We can steal, lie and sin as much as we choose and still believe that our prophet Mohammed will make it all right when we die. Your clothes are like your religion, tight-fitting, narrow and restraining." Root. E. Speer has visited many heathen lands, and he says: "Mohammedanism is held by many who live under its shadow to be the most degraded religion, morally, in the world." The Koran has very little comfort for women and children. Mohammed loved strong warriors better, who could use their swords freely. "Believe or die!" was the way many of his converts were made. Their wives and mothers are not loved and respected as in our homes.

Slavery is upheld and practised by them in every land where it is not forbidden by law. The followers of Mohammed are increasing in number and strength. Missionaries are working among them in many lands, but find them very hard to win for Jesus Christ. Let us pray for the many millions of Mohammed's followers and for the Missionaries who are trying to teach them about the Saviour.

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"Is it nothing to you, oh ye Christian,
That millions in dark heathen lands,
Are dying each day without Jesus,
Without seeing His outstretched hands,
Without seeing His face full of pity,
And full of such wonderful love,
Without hearing His voice low and
tender,
Saying, 'Come to thy Father above'?"

"Is it nothing to you, when your Mas-
ter
Said, 'Go into all the world,
And preach to every creature
The tale of thy risen Lord?
Do you think that the page that is
yours,
In the Book of Life, will be clear.
When you let your poor brothers and
sisters,
Die sadly in darkness and fear?"

"Oh! let us be up and doing,
With a heart for any fight,
And march with our face turned for-
ward,
And strive with our might for the
right.

Let us do all we can that the Gospel
May be sent to all the dark lands,
Till the beautiful story of Jesus
Is proclaimed on every strand.

"Then when we stand in the Judg-
ment,
Before the throne of God,
When our poor tired, weary bodies,
Are resting beneath the sod,
We may see among those that surround
us,
Some face most exceeding bright,
That belonged to a poor heathen bro-
ther,
Whom we have brought to the light.

M. MUIR.

Montreal, Que.