

posed he was crucified in the year 67 or 68. Vs. 20, 21.—In response to the command "follow me," Peter seems to have risen up, and literally followed Christ; and looking back he seen John coming. Whereupon he asks, "and what shall this man do?" Prompted by curiosity the question is not directly answered. The questioner is told that John's affairs are no concern of his, that his duty is to follow Christ.

#### LESSONS.

- (1.) Those who have given Christ reason to suspect their love, may expect to have their love tested.
- (2.) Christ would have us assure ourselves of our love to Him. Assurance is attainable.
- (3.) Love to Christ is the grand requisite for service. It is the great qualification for the pastoral office.
- (4.) Discipleship consists in this following Christ.
- (5.) Attention to our own duties is better than inquisitiveness concerning the affairs of others. Follow Christ, and you will neither have the time nor the inclination to meddle with the affairs of others.

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### The Two Methods.

The outbreak of cholera in Syria has illustrated the difference between Mohammedanism and other oriental systems and Protestant Christianity.

The Moslem newspapers have generally advocated fatalism, and advised the people to remain in the cities, since no change of place or effort of any kind could affect the case. If a man's time had come, he would die in spite of all; but if he were fated to live, no amount of pestilence could harm him. One or two articles, in the same papers, have shown, however, that the popular faith in the Fatalism of Islam is beginning to be shaken. An editorial appears on the necessity of cleanliness and careful diet. And whatever may have been professed or written, the native population of Beirut and other cities have fled to the mountains, except when detained by want of means.

On the other hand, Drs. Van Dyck and Post, of the Syrian Mission, while realizing the danger, have illustrated the more reasonable Christian doctrine of divine providence, by using all proper means of prevention and cure. They have stood faithfully at their post, for the relief of the people, administering medicine at the Prussian Hospital and elsewhere. They have only gone up to the hills to spend the night. Dr. Van Dyck has issued a tract in Arabic,

giving directions for the prevention and the treatment of cholera, &c. The value of such a tract, in a country where hundreds of villages are without a physician, cannot be fully estimated.

At Snglein, a large village twenty miles from Zahleh, the cholera broke out with great violence. The priests, Greek or Maronite, had at first made great ado about a pretended apparition of the Virgin in the sky, and an audible promise from her "that Christ should not smite the village." Had all worked well, their imposition would have made them some capital. But when the cholera came they fled ingloriously, leaving the poor people without help or hope. The Rev. Mr. Dale, of Zahleh, resolved to go to their relief, though not a physician. The chief men of Zahleh remonstrated, but in vain. Taking cholera specifics with him, he hastened to the scourged and terror-stricken village.

He found the people so paralyzed with fear and Fatalism, that no effort was made to save those attacked except by the native Protestant preacher, who had about exhausted his medicines, and made himself ill.

When the people saw that several cases of recovery had resulted from Mr. Dale's courageous endeavors, a marked change came over this whole community, the people arose as from a lethargy of despair. The presence of one brave man inspired effort and precaution.

The Virgin Mary in the clouds had proved a bad failure, but a Protestant missionary with medicines and kind words, though humbly walking the earth without miraculous power, had wrought a wonderful transformation. The grateful people thronged him, and implored blessings on him, and even kissed his feet. The native preacher, supplied with medicines and some instruction, and withal restored to health, became quite efficient as a local doctor. On the Sabbath Mr. Dale preached to such an audience as had never been assembled before in Snglein. So the gospel finds access in Syria, and in all lands, when attended with healing to the body.

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**MODERN MISSIONS—THEIR EXTENT AND RESULTS.**—To compute the results of modern missions is impossible. Figures cannot express them, nor are they visible to the human eye. But it is interesting to know that outside the bounds of Christendom there are 4,000 centres of Christian work and gospel teaching, 2,500 congregations, 273,000 communicants, and 1,350,000 nominal Christians.