

are cruel. The King sets the example—locks up his granaries, and withholds every kernel of wheat except at famine prices. Every nabob and landowner who has a stock on hand, follows this example. Rapacity and cupidity rule. Money is coined out of the sufferings of the poor. The imbecility, avarice, cruelty of the ruling class, is sometimes beyond belief. Depravity is satanic. Persia is ruined by despotism, misrule and cruel feudal oppressions.

"No lover of humanity can regard such a land but with feelings of profound pity. We long for the day when civilization will build high-ways and railroads by which charity at least can be conveyed to the famishing. A proper system of roads, and one or two railroads in Persia would make such a famine impossible. The country has natural resources which only need developing to make her as in ancient times, a granary. Places supplied with water yield every kind of fruit and grain in abundance. These beautiful, favoured districts can be extended. By opening again the water-courses, by sinking artesian wells, by proper aqueducts for the mountain streams, irrigation can be greatly extended, and the rain supply increased. But before this physical renovation comes, and war and famine ceases, there must be a moral renovation. At present the earth itself, under a despotic government and false religion, is cursed for man's sake. It refuses to yield its harvest for the use of man, because man refuses to yield himself to the glory of God."

#### THE MODERN MISSIONARY MOVEMENT IN PERSIA.

Rev. Justin Perkins and wife, the first missionaries of the American Board, reached Tabreez, August 23rd, 1834. In October, 1835, they were joined by Dr. and Mrs. Grant, when all together proceeded to Oroomiah:

"We arrived," says Mr. Perkins, "in a furious storm.

"Having the broad, common ground of Scripture on which to meet the Nestorians, and the most ready access to them, we at once addressed ourselves to the work of their amelioration and salvation. For, while their knowledge of the Bible was so vague and meagre, they cherished a reverence for the sacred oracles amounting almost to adoration. Dr. Grant soon acquired a commanding influence over all classes, by his skilful practice of medicine and his active devotion to their welfare.

"Our missionary work soon took the threefold form of education, the press, and last but preëminent, oral preaching.

Our first missionary school was commenced in January, 1836, in a cellar, (apt emblem of the moral state around us,) for the want of a more comfortable place, it being Winter.

with seven boys. It was the germ of our flourishing Male Seminary. The number of pupils soon increased to fifty; and from learning their alphabet on manuscript-cards at the beginning, they rapidly advanced, till they have long graduated with very respectable attainments in literature and science, a remarkably familiar knowledge of the Holy Scriptures, and most of them, with considerable acquaintance with theology as a system. From that seminary have gone forth nearly a hundred graduates, about sixty of whom are able and faithful preachers of the Gospel, not a few of them partaking much of the holy unction of the sainted Stoddard, under whose self-consuming toils and prayers they were trained. Others have gone forth hopefully pious, who, in other avocations, are hardly less useful co-labourers in the work of evangelization.

"About two years after opening our male seminary. The term Topsy would then not inaptly have described the character and appearance of those little girls; not that they were black, the people are nearly as light as ourselves; but for uncleanness, disorder, and propensity to mischief. Yet in a few short years those same individuals, if indeed we can call them the same, appear before us well educated, intelligent, refined young ladies; and what is yet far more, as devoted active Christians. The most arduous missionary toil had indeed done its work upon them. But it was the grace of God that wrought effectually in that wonderful transformation. About a hundred pious young women have gone forth, among the graduates of that Seminary, who in the various relations of wives and mothers, and teachers, are doing a work not at all second to that of the graduates of the Male Seminary, for advancing the Gospel among their people. Miss Fisk, as the result of her faithful labours in that Seminary, when her health broke down, and she was obliged to visit this country, at the last communion season before leaving the field, was permitted to sit down at the Lord's table with seventy of her pupils."

The mission to the Nestorians has been favored by the presence and labours of some of the most devoted of all the labourers who have gone to the foreign field. The names of Stoddard, Stocking, Lobdell, Crane, Cochran, Rhea, with a goodly number of heroic and devoted women must ever be embalmed in the memory of the Church, and they will constitute an example of great encouragement to those whose future labour shall be bestowed on the same field. The work of grace in Persia in connection with missionary effort has been very remarkable. Eleven or twelve revivals of great power have been experienced in the high schools at Oroomiah and Scir. Some of the most apostolic men and women have been num-