

supersede the gospel; to acknowledge its skillful adaptation to an Oriental constituency; to recognize the truth which it contains and the natural basis which it affords for a work of supernatural grace and spiritual enlightenment through the revealed Word applied by the Spirit; to recognize every excellence of personal character which may be found in individual Moslems of the more serious and devout type. No one can do all this more easily than a Christian missionary living in Moslem lands. When, however, it comes to the question of his duty and responsibility as a religious teacher, every consideration of loyalty and high obligation requires him to teach only the gospel of his Divine Master. This is his supreme privilege, his sublime mission, and his inexorable task. No Christian missionary is sent to the Moslem world to establish a treaty of peace with Islam. He is sent there to carry the gospel of salvation to the perishing Moslem. He is God's messenger to a deluded people. The preaching of the Cross, which, of course, is an offense to the Moslem as it was to Jew and Gentile of old, is the very business which brings him there. He must endeavor to accomplish this delicate mission with tact and wisdom, and must be patient and courteous and courageous; but he has not the slightest authority from God or man to depart from his instructions or enter into any questionable compromises. He is an ambassador of the Cross, not an apologist for the Crescent.

The question of method is, no doubt, a pressing one, and upon this point Christian missionaries all over the world are seeking guidance and would be grateful for light. One thing, however, is certain: no method can be tolerated which lowers the standards of the gospel, or compromises its truths, or places a human religion on the same plane with the one divine religion; nor would such a method be fruitful in any results of solid or permanent value.

This is most assuredly the spirit of all our American missionaries in the Orient. They look to the Christian churches at home to sustain and encourage them in this theory of Christian missions to Mohammedans. They hope for the sympathy and prayers of Christ's people as they endeavor to work on upon these lines. It is time for the Christian public of America to be intelligently and profoundly interested in the religious development of Oriental nations, and especially in the problem of the relation of Christianity to Islam and the duty of the church of Christ to Moslems. Let us study this question in the light of history and with a living sympathy in the welfare of 200,000,000 of our race. Consider the desperate nature of the undertaking, and how the honor of Christ is involved throughout the whole Eastern world. Watch the developments of the Eastern question as one which holds in focus the most burning problems of European diplomacy. Note the rapid movements of European governments in taking possession of the territory of Africa, more than one-half of which is now in their