

that he loved their souls too much to leave them; he would stay. A year passed by and all parties became and have continued very friendly.

The hostility to our mission may be easily accounted for. Twenty minutes ride from Haft Dewan is the village of Khosroo-Shah, where for nearly fifty years the Catholic Lazarists have had a mission. When they came there the town was one of the richest on the Plain, partly Armenian and partly Nestorian. To-day it is one of the worst; its lewd women and drunken men give it everywhere a bad odor. The Catholics have taught them to gamble and encouraged strong drink by their own example. For the first time in twenty years a man has been seen in Persia dead-drunk by the roadside. For many years these monks meddled with civil affairs, securing justice only for those that favored them and punishing whom they would. They also farmed the taxes and became so obnoxious that the Government gave strict orders that they should let civil matters alone. They are now under the ban. Dreadful lies had been circulated concerning us, and these poor people of Haft Dewan expected the worst from us. But as time showed that we did not meddle with their affairs, they became friendly and now would not wish us to leave. Though none have come out on the Lord's side, many seem glad to hear the Word. The woman whose husband rented to the missionaries at first stole everything she could get, but this she has ceased to do, and has been known to speak good words for Mr. Wright. She seems in fact to be a Christian.

The work has thus begun; the Bible is read and studied, and the fields are ripening to the harvest. Next winter I hope to work on the Plain among the Armenians, many of whose villages have not been visited.

Asia Minor.

ST. PAUL'S INSTITUTE, TARSUS, Aug. 1, 1888.

EDITORS OF MISSIONARY REVIEW.—You will be glad to know of the safe arrival of our party, our expenses being paid by Col. Elliott F. Shepard. Arriving at Mersine, Tarsus and Adana, we were most cordially welcomed by the missionaries and hundreds of the native friends. These three cities now being connected by rail are almost as one city, having a population of nearly 100,000, consisting of Mohammedans, Armenians, Greeks and Fellahs. The first thing we noticed was the exceeding poverty of the people, owing to the recent severe famine. This year's harvest is good, still there are thousands of sick, aged, feeble women and little children who are unable to work for their support, whose suffering is beyond description. The people thus

afflicted are drawn to the gospel with greater interest. Since reaching the country it has been my privilege to preach two or three times weekly. In Tarsus from 200 to 400, and in Adana from 1,200 to 1,500 persons were gathered each Sabbath; prayer-meetings are largely attended, and the Sabbath-school lesson has to be given from the pulpit, there not being room to arrange classes for such large numbers.

The generous contributions of Christian friends in America for the famine sufferers have proved a means of grace among the people. A few Sabbaths ago we had communion in Adana, at which 54 persons united with the church on profession of faith. In Tarsus the work has not been so prosperous, owing to the lack of a regular pastor and an unsuitable place of worship. Yet there are many to be gathered into the churches.

Another promising feature is the educational interest among the youth. Besides the contributions for the famine sufferers, which were \$2,445 last year, there was given \$2,400 for the scholarship fund for the poor and orphan children of St. Paul's Institute. From this last amount \$425 was sent with the famine money for immediate use in helping our poor children. On our arrival we were surprised to learn that 75 children had been assisted. Calling at their schools we saw dozens of pale, sickly-looking, yet bright children, sitting on the hard floor, their clothing patched with pieces of many colors, and worn daily for more than a year (they stay in the house while their only garments were washed and dried). Some had only worn-out books, which they shared with others. Asking the teacher, "Is this the condition of the children all the year?" the reply was: "They are now in a better state, as the famine is passing. Many continue the school with insufficient clothing, barefooted and often hungry for days." Many lived on two or three metallics (cents) daily. "Often hungry, yet industrious; shivering with cold, burning with heat, still most eager to make progress." Beyond the pale faces and frail bodies we saw active minds and souls to be loved and won for Christ. They are entirely dependent on benevolent friends for further education—if they are properly cared for and educated, what a great blessing they will prove to this needy and darkened land!

It was God's own time for us to come while the people are so needy and eager to receive the gospel. Our mission is to *teach and preach the truth*. The kind interest of the missionaries and people here encourages us in our work. Tarsus will be our headquarters, where our school will be located, yet we will work in other cities and villages throughout Asia Minor.