

many villages and towns upon the plains of Oroomiah, Sooldooz and Salmez, with a few from the mountains of Koordistan. "The incident is a very impressive and encouraging object-lesson of what missionary efforts have accomplished in one direction merely—a rather liberal per cent. of return in fifty years. It speaks even more tellingly when it is borne in mind that at the commencement of the work among the Nestorians, by Dr. Perkins and Dr. Grant, these poor people did not have the Scriptures in their own language (the Syriac). There were a few manuscript copies on parchment of the ancient Syriac, so revered and precious that they were only used on special and very holy occasions, and upon which oaths were administered.

The evangelizing of the Moslem population proceeds slowly in Persia, as elsewhere, but immense good is being done through the education of Moslem children, both boys and girls, in Christian schools. A great work is also being accomplished by the Bible societies in the circulation of the Scriptures in the Persian, Turkish, Arabic and Syriac languages, and also in Hebrew.

Some have been bold enough to allege that it is impossible for the Gospel to prevail among Mohammedans, but those best qualified to judge state that there are no impassable barriers in the way of their enlightenment and conversion. One who has lived forty years among them says:—

*"It would be hard to prove that the difficulties and dangers attendant upon preaching the Gospel to Mohammedans are greater than those which faced the apostles and martyrs and early teachers of Christianity in the Roman Empire in the first three centuries of the history of the Christian Church. They preached to proud Romans, as well as to bigoted Jews and sensual Greeks, in spite of threatenings, scourgings, stonings, imprisonments and cruel deaths, and, as a result, pagan Rome was Christianized. So, with like faith and prayer and courage and perseverance and effort, in due season—and it may be after a hard struggle—the Gospel will triumph; the Bible will supplant the Koran, the prophet of Nazareth will take the place of the prophet of Mecca in the heart of Moslems, the Son of God the place of the son of Abdullah, to the glory of God and the salvation of immortal souls."*