

Protestant community of 9,000 souls. The result of six years of labour in one locality may show to what degree the doors are at present open to the Gospel in the very heart of Asia Minor. In 1855, two American missionaries succeeded in fixing themselves in the town of *Marash* after great difficulties. There are now at that place a Protestant community a thousand strong, a regular congregation of from 700 to 1,000 persons, a church which had 225 members last May, and is daily increasing, and six schools with 350 pupils. About 200 Protestant adult women and fifty Greek and Armenians have learned, or are learning, to read.

The elevation of woman is one of the most remarkable as well as the happiest results of the Protestant mission. Among the Christians of Asiatic Turkey the character and condition of women had fallen almost as low as among the Moslem. Now, seminaries to train female teachers, and day schools also are scattered throughout the remotest districts of Turkey, and upon the frontier of Persia. Future mothers of families and members of churches are prepared in them. There are mothers' prayer-meetings in every flock, and not only in the old Christian churches, but the very Mohammedans themselves are stirred up to jealousy, and begin to perceive that women have souls.

Even the Armenians who do not become Protestants are gradually emancipating themselves from practices which only a few years ago were regarded as the touchstone of orthodoxy. The symbols of superstitious worship gradually disappear from the churches. The fear once entertained of the anathemas of the priests has given place to a feeling of disgust at their selfishness, their duplicity, and cruelty; the Bible in the vulgar tongue is generally read, and the doctrine of the Church compared with its teachings; relations of private friendship have been re-established between the members of the two churches; the Armenian children attend Protestant schools, and the adults Protestant places of worship. Another crisis must speedily come about, says Dr. Dwight, another exodus from a corrupt Church, but this time it will be upon a far grander scale than before.

The American brethren have shown great practical wisdom and praiseworthy respect for the people among whom they labour, by aiming at the creation and organization of a native ministry, and of self-sustaining churches. Instead of rendering Armenian Protestantism for ever dependent upon America, they labour to prepare a state of things in which their own co-operation will be no longer necessary. The missionary himself is never, properly speaking, pastor of a church, he devotes himself to train the native preacher, who is thus set to work in a station or at the head of a church. The extremely moderate sum for which a theological education can be obtained in their seminaries—£12 yearly at Bebek, £6 at Kharpoot—is of itself enough to show what care they take not to *Europeanize* their students, by inspiring them with a taste for the material side of our civilization. The salary of the pastor and the expenses of the school are never entirely defrayed by the American Board; the churches are expected always to contribute to each according to their means, and the amount of their contributions increases from year to year.

The missions of Syria and Palestine are in one sense the most interesting of all, because of the sacred remembrances connected with the places which form their sphere; but they have not to do with a numerous population, like some of those of which we have been speaking. The most blessed result of the episcopal mission to Jerusalem may perhaps be found hereafter to consist in that intercourse with the Abyssinians which the venerable Bishop Gobat has been able to keep up or to renew. The American Mission has survived the horrible massacres which so recently dyed the slopes of Lebanon with human blood.

The zeal and impartiality exhibited in the distribution of the funds sent from Protestant countries have opened every door to the missionaries, so that the stations which they have been able to occupy once more are more promising than ever; they even possess the confidence of the Druses still more than that of the Maronites.

It was only recently that the American Board of Missions tried to reach the