

A Letter

This letter concerning the death of Dr. Christine Bennett was addressed to the Rev. John A. Van Neste, as his church at Ridgewood, N. J., was responsible for Mrs. Bennett's support.

Kuweit, Persian Gulf,
Via Bombay, India,
April 27th, 1916.

Dear Mr. Van Neste:

You will long ago have had the terrible news of the death of our beloved Mrs. Bennett on March 29th, but I thought you might be glad of a few lines from one who has recently been in Busrah and who is able to give you some details. It was in connection with Dr. Chamberlain's visit to Arabia that my duty led me to Busrah where I was to take charge of the doctor and bring him to Kuweit. I arrived there only a few days after Mrs. Bennett had passed away and as soon as I could spare the time I went to see Dr. Bennett. He is bearing his great sorrow wonderfully and it is an inspiration to be with him and learn from him how to face affliction. All the time that she was ill and on the day she died he was unconscious. It was as though he had gone to sleep with his wife beside him, and had wakened to find that she was gone. Dr. Bennett is especially anxious about his little boy, now motherless.

The disease that struck down Mrs. Bennett, typhus fever, was brought into the hospital by some Turkish prisoners. The first to go down were our two Indian nurses, and then Miss Holzhauser, the nurse in charge, and finally Dr. Bennett himself. All of these Mrs. Bennett nursed faithfully and when she finally herself succumbed to the disease they were all with the exception of the doctor out of danger. She faced her illness with her usual pluck, assuring everybody that she was going to have a light attack, but on the fourth or fifth day she became unconscious and died on the ninth day. It was certainly true of her that she "laid down her life for her friends." The loss to the Mission cannot be exaggerated, in every way she excelled, as a doctor and as a missionary.

She had the knack of being able to run her hospital work and her household work without either one or the other suffering unduly, and of course she was a woman of great energy. Everybody loved her, and at her funeral every bit of Busrah was represented, from the highest

government officials down. The government took upon itself all the expense of the funeral and left nothing undone to show its appreciation of Mrs. Bennett. A fine motor launch was placed at the disposal of the mourners and quite a handsome casket was furnished from the government workshops. And finally, the local paper printed an appropriate account of her illness and death.

It will not be easy to replace Mrs. Bennett. If we had a recruit to fill her place now it would take her at least four years before she could hope to be as valuable as Mrs. Bennett. The language must be learned and experience gained. It is a glorious opportunity for someone to come forward and say, "Here am I, send me." Do you know anyone that would come, and would the Ridgewood church like to take her over as Mrs. Bennett's successor?

Very sincerely yours,

C. STANLEY G. MYLREA.

News Items

Rev. and Mrs. G. D. Van Peursen who had been stationed at Bahrein have recently arrived home on furlough. Their present address is Maurice, Iowa. On their return journey they were accompanied by Mrs. Van Vlack whose address is Forestville, N. Y.

Dr. Arthur K. Bennett, of Busrah, whose furlough has been delayed by his own sickness and the death of his wife, has reached this country with his little son, Matthew.

It will afford pleasure to the members of the Arabian Mission and their friends to learn of Dr. Paul W. Harrison's recent engagement to be married to Miss Regina Rabbe who is connected with the Union Protestant Infirmary, Baltimore, Md. Dr. Harrison has been for several months visiting medical and other institutions under the auspices of the Student Volunteer Movement, but has arranged to speak at several of our western Mission Fests.

Mrs. Cantine and the Misses Lutton and Scardefield enjoyed a week at the Young Women's Conference at Northfield.

Rev. G. J. Pennings' health continues to improve, but it does not yet seem advisable for him to resume his work in Arabia.

Dr. Mylrea reports that a valuable microscope and other instruments used by the physician employed by The Moslem Benevolent Society, of Kuwait, have been presented to the Mission Hospital by a brother of the present Sheikh. He had been a patient at the Hospital and besides these instruments has given Dr. Mylrea a horse.

The sale of books at the Kuwait Bible Shop has been such as to exhaust the supply, which because of war conditions cannot be replenished from Beirut as usual.

Dr. James Cantine, who during Dr. Chamberlain's absence on Deputation was Acting Foreign Secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions, with Mrs. Cantine and Dr. DeWitt Scoville Clark expect to sail for Arabia via the Pacific on Sept. 7. Dr. Clark is a graduate of Yale University and Harvard Medical College. His father was for nearly half a generation pastor of the historic Church in Salem in which the first missionaries of the American Board, members of the famous Haystack Meeting, were ordained and commissioned.

It is expected that the Rev. and Mrs. Edwin E. Calverley and family will return by the Pacific route, sailing Oct. 14.

An idea of summer temperature in Arabia is given in this casual remark of Mr. F. J. Barny in a letter dated, Maskat, June 14th: "We are having a remarkably cool season. Normally the temperature should be 110° or 112°, but today it is only 96°."

On April 4th an editorial was published in the "Hilal," a Mohammedan paper in Constantinople, in which the policy was set forth that all foreign influence was to be eliminated from the Turkish Empire and especially that exerted by mission institutions, and that the country was to remain absolutely and exclusively Mohammedan. Recent events seem to be but the preliminary to the carrying out of that plan. Because of the property in Turkey which is owned by Americans, the whole matter has been laid before the United States Government.



AN APPRECIATION OF DR. BENNETT

A letter to Dr. Chamberlain from Sir Percy Cox, who is chief civil representative of the British Government in the Persian Gulf region and is also connected with the expeditionary force now operating in Mesopotamia.

Political Office,

Busrah, May 6th, 1916.

Dear Dr. Chamberlain :

Please let me thank you cordially for your kind letter of April 29th which I found on my return to Busrah. I, too, am very sorry to have missed meeting you on your passage through here. As regards any co-operation which we are able to afford the members of your Mission, please rest assured that it is afforded with complete readiness, and with the knowledge that we receive the same in full measure from the Mission out here, the devoted labors of whose members, and their readiness to work in harmony with us in the Gulf and here are alike appreciated.

May I take the opportunity to offer to your Mission my deep sympathy at the loss of Mrs. Bennett. I had the privilege of knowing her, both as resident in the Gulf and as a member of the Force, and realize the great loss which we have suffered in her sad death in the midst of the devoted labors of herself and her husband.

Yours sincerely,

P. Z. COX.

