



the house. The next day I also went about and sold books, but for the three days I was there they did not cease to persecute me."

I think I have quoted enough to show you something of the difficulties in the way of colportage in Oman. In all these instances Said was alone except for a Mohammedan assistant and donkey driver. He is not wont to exaggerate his trials or to shirk responsibility, and in these regions where life is notoriously cheap and where there is constant robbery and bloodshed, there are few native Christians who would venture what he has undertaken so cheerfully. He certainly is well equipped with patience and gentleness and experience, but it has been as he says only the power and goodness of God that has kept him safely. Seeing how important his work is, beyond anything that we missionaries can do, will you not petition the Master that he may be kept always in health and safety, and that a rich blessing may follow his life?

A DAY IN MOHARREK.

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If you have read Dr. Zwemer's book on Arabia you will know that Moharrek is one of the Bahrein Islands, and has this name, probably, because long ago when there were many Hindus here they burned their dead on that island. The word means a place of burning.

The ruler and all the nobility live at that place, and they have prevented us from opening a book-shop there, but as I have treated many patients from there we had no trouble renting a shop for a dispensary, and we propose to spend one day a week there throughout the year. Of course we and our colporters sell Bibles to patients and others who will buy. We shall keep Bibles and other books, and we hope, later in the year, to have the shop open for the sale of Scriptures more than one day a week.

The first day I treated eighteen patients, the second thirty, and yesterday I treated forty, and an Arab whom I am treating offers to give us a larger shop free of charge for one year.

When we had our medicines unpacked and arranged, and the record book opened on a box which answered for a table, a crowd

had gathered before the door. Most of these were only loafers curious to see what we were going to do. Some had aches and pains or bad eyes to be treated, and each waited for another to come up first, but finally they began to come in. After they had told their story and were examined they were treated. Some came up with their arms extended that the doctor might feel their pulse, for they have an idea that a doctor needs only to feel the



VIEW FROM MISSION HOUSE, BAHREIN, LOOKING NORTHEAST TOWARD MOHARREK.

pulse to know their exact condition, including all their aches and pains.

A man came to have me see his eyes, and after examining them I attempted to put some medicine in them with a medicine dropper when he objected because he had eaten fish for breakfast, and they think that medicine will not be beneficial if they eat fish while they are being treated, and when I give them medicine to take they generally ask if they may eat fish, and are greatly sur-

prised when they are told that they may. As fish is their principal article of food they are generally much pleased to know that they may eat it while taking treatment.

They also often have an idea that their sickness comes from a bad odor inhaled some time before, and they often tell me that on that day or even weeks before they inhaled an offensive odor and of course became sick. Bedouins often come to us with their nostrils stuffed full of rags on that account. Many of the odors one gets in the narrow dirty streets, which are very offensive to us, are not noticed by the Arabs, and to them only certain odors, such as that from decayed fish, are harmful.

I pulled four or five teeth while an Arab friend was sitting in the shop, and he expressed great surprise at the apparent ease with which they were drawn, and said that it would take a barber three hours and four men to help him and then he would break the tops off. This was an exaggeration regarding the time, but regarding the number of helpers necessary and the accident that so often happens he spoke the truth. The barber sits on the patient's breast and four men hold his hands and feet while the barber pries and pulls for several minutes finally often breaking the crown, then the man comes to us to have the roots pulled out.

Sometimes when they have a tooth-ache they hire a Mullah to read over it from the Koran. The Mullah sits before the patient and reads as rapidly as he can. The patient sometimes falls asleep in this way, but when he awakes it is aching as badly as before and he hires the Mullah to read again. One day I pulled a very large tooth that required all my strength, and they told me that the reason this one came so hard was that a year previously it had been read over!

This ignorance and superstition is often pitiful, and the task of teaching such people is not an easy one.

Bigotry and self-righteousness are the thorns and thistles which prevent the growth of the seed. Will you pray that we may ever be faithful in the sowing and that our faith may never waver, for His Word will not return unto Him void, but the harvest will come in His own season.