

NEGLECTED ARABIA.

October - December, 1907.

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COMMENCEMENT IN ARABIA.

The following report was written by the schoolmaster Elias, detailing what we hope will be a valuable archive when the Bahrein School has become the Persian Gulf University. The President's English is a bit tangled in places, but it rings true, for it is more than sounding brass and tinkling cymbal, it rings of love and devotion for a great cause.

To. Mr. _____,

BAHREIN, July 27, 1907.

MY DEAREST SIR:—I am going to express to you the story of our examinations and celebration. Last week we examined all the scholars in every lesson. We examined the first class in the following lessons: English (Reading, Composition and Grammar); Arabic (Composition, Reading and Grammar); Physiology, Geography, Arithmetic, etc. So the first of this class was Jaleel, he got 90. The second was Saleem, he got 83. The third was Andrus, he got 82. And the missionaries said that the boys have done very, very well this year. This is about examination. Now, about the celebration. I told you in the last letter that I liked the Arabs to come to school, so I was searching for a way to visit them and invite them. During this time I heard that they have brought an Indian teacher from India to teach their children the English language. I became very sad indeed, but my grief was too short, because it was soon turned into joy. In that same night I intended to visit Y—. On my way, near the sea, I saw

him sitting with some Arab people. As soon as I sat down he rose, and I rose after him. On the way I spoke with him about this, using the words of kindness and love to the Arabs, showing myself as if I am an Arab, and how it is very difficult on me to see my own people are in this bad case. After my speech they became very, very glad, so that Y— gave me his hand and said, "You are indeed a real friend and I promise you to bring my children and the children of this man" (meaning M. T.). And he did not let me enter my house, but he took me to his house, where I remained about some time.

The next day I went to see M—. All the people said that this man does not come, don't trouble yourself, but I did not think in their speech so, but I went and spoke to him the way I spoke to Y—. He looked at me and was astonished, and when I gave my letter he said willingly, "I shall come." To my gladness I could not hold it, but told Muallim Gerjis about it. He said, "I don't think he comes, But we shall see to-morrow." I sent many letters to the people and especially to the sheikhs, but I was very sorry they could not come because they went to the "kanas" (hunting). Only Sheikh Hamad was there and he sent his wazir instead of himself.

On Thursday morning we made our celebration, and to my gladness there was M— sitting in front of the people and to his left there was Hussein M—, Y—, the wazir of the sheikh and some other people, I did not know them. In the end I saw them very obliged and glad from this celebration, that they said to our children, "*Afakum,*" "*Afakum,*" (Bravo), many, many times, but I was not contented by this only, as I rose afterwards and addressed them by a very warm speech, in which I showed them their want of knowledge, their case in comparing with other nations and their need of schools, which are like ours. And in the end I asked them to bring their children to this school. Sir, if you are here you would be indeed surprised when you hear their words of sorrow during my speech as *Ah, Ah,* and *Hakk, Sadk* (True), and *Ay Wallah*, and in the end, when I spoke asking them to bring their children they all said, *Makboola, Makboola,* (Agreed).

To my astonishment I saw the great difficulty in Bahrein, the man who hated the fathers who bring their children to our school, now come to our school and promises to send his child, too.

No sooner than I sat down when the people spoke about me. The wazir said to Y—, "This fellow is a wonder, do you know him?" M— confessed all what he had in his heart. He said that he was the man who prevented the boys from coming to this school, and that is because you taught religion, but henceforward there is no offence which prevents the boys. And Y— and Moh. asked me to come

and teach their children as a preparation to the school in the next year. This is the story of our celebration, which it indeed made me very glad. I am very glad that I have laid a good and strong foundation to this school. I promised the missionaries that I'll do the work of four years in this next year and I have done the half, and I pray God to enable me to finish. I hope you will not forget me from your prayers that I may be wise and a man of administration.

One of the boys recited a speech to the missionaries. I have sent it to you. Perhaps you would like to print it. I remain, your very much loving and obedient friend.

ELIAS K. KADER.

TO THE MISSIONARIES AT BAHREIN.

DEAR LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:—

We are too small to know much about thankfulness, but we feel something of the same attraction to you that we feel to our parents, and which we are now going to express to you. We feel a great love to you because we know that you feel more toward us. Can we say no when we are sitting in this beautiful school which has been built by you, in which we are tasting the sweets of knowledge? Can we say no when we remember the many, many times you have cured us by your exceeding love and kindness as well as by your good medicines? We speak of ourselves, but we do not speak of the many, many children whom you have cured for the sake of humanity and



A STREET SPRINKLER IN ARABIA.