



of such oppression, of such false teaching that results in lying, deception, cruelty, and in debasing and oppressing the weak and feeble.

MINNIE W. DYKSTRA.

## The Future Staff of the Mission.



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In "The Future Leadership of the Church," Mr. John R. Mott has presented principles which may be directly applied to our Mission work. To train the children now in the care of the Mission that they may be depended upon to carry on the work of the Mission during the next generation, is a problem of paramount immediate importance. It involves the life, the growth, the extension of the Mission, and the evangelization of Arabia.

The purpose of our missionary work here is two-fold: to present Christ to the Arabs so that they will accept Him as their Saviour, and, secondly, to establish here a native Christian Church which shall be self-propagating, self-supporting, and self-governing. The first concern of the Mission has been, and is still, to secure converts, but our faith and the history of Christian missions in all lands assure us that a native church will rise and grow. An Arab Christian church must rise and grow. It cannot be that there should be a native Christian church of seventy thousand in Japan and none in Arabia; a native church of eighty thousand out of Korea's twelve million and none in Arabia; native churches of over a hundred and ten thousand in China, of over four hundred thousand in India, of over half a million in Africa, and none in Arabia. The Christian religion will become the religion of Arabia. But if Christianity is to be the religion of Arabia, it must be believed and practiced by the Arabs. If Jesus Christ is to be accepted by the Arabs, He must be preached by the Arabs. It is a commonplace among missionary principles, that every country must be evangelized by its own people. And there are no others than the Arabs themselves who can evangelize Arabia. The churches at home cannot supply enough missionaries for every Arab community or congregation. The policy adopted by the Men's National Missionary Congress at Chicago this year would allow one foreign missionary for every twenty-five thousand people, but even when Arabia gets its apportionment of three hundred and twenty missionaries, these will not be enough to accomplish even the first part of our two-fold purpose. And as for the Native Church, it must be enlarged, it must be operated, it must be led by native pastors and teachers. These pastors and teachers cannot always be imported, for that makes them as truly foreign

missionaries as are those sent out by the Boards; they cannot be taken from the ranks of Islam and immediately given charge of Christian work. They must be trained. To train and develop these native Christian leaders to the extent of our opportunity and ability is of supreme and immediate importance as an absolute necessity.

The problem is not peculiar to this Mission. Dr. Mott declares that "In conferences of missionaries and native Christian leaders conducted during the past six years in foreign mission fields of Asia, Africa and Latin America, there was universal testimony that the most difficult and important problem in the evangelization of the world is that of securing an able Christian ministry."

An able Christian ministry for Arabia will mean Christian Arabs possessing those qualities which will win the respect of their brethren and the success of their cause. These preachers and teachers should have the physical strength to endure the heat and the hardships of touring and staying in difficult places; they should have the courage and the patience to encounter and live down the persecution and hardness of heart of those who could religiously kill them. They should have tact and zeal which will avoid unnecessary opposition and embrace every advantage. They should have sufficient intellectual equipment to answer objections to their faith, to instruct inquirers and edify believers. They must have a scrupulous conscience, which governs their conduct, their use of their time and their opportunities; they must have that deep-rooted conviction of their own need of Christ as their Saviour and of the need of their Arab brethren; and they must have that faithful love for God which consecrates itself in unlimited sympathy and devotion toward their neighbors.

Arabia contains men of exceptional abilities. Not to mention those founders of religions and sects, those generals of national-conquering armies, there have been besides unnumbered born leaders among the Arabs. One reason why it has been difficult, and indeed impossible, to embrace the country under one government, is because there are so many of leadership ability that they win followers to themselves. To transfer such qualities to the cause of Christ, to train and develop such qualities in the lives of those in the care of the Mission, is a work that demands our most careful and constant attention and our utmost efforts. The beginnings may be small and insignificant, but so are the beginnings of most things, and when the work is small, it may be more easily accomplished.

The necessity of giving special attention to the development of such resources as we have becomes more obvious when we consider the advantages of a larger and more effective native working force. Native Arab Christians will secure converts in larger numbers and in shorter time than can alien workers. They will be able to

mingle more intimately with the Arabs, to enter into closer sympathy with them, to understand their way of thinking, to conciliate their prejudices, to share their customs, to practice their manner of living. Their influence will be widest and most constant, will be most direct and most effective. The Moslems will see that the Christian Arab is the best Arab. He will see that the Christian Arab has higher



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ideals and a better life. He will find that the Christian Arab is faithful in his promises, honest in his dealings, honorable among men, chivalrous to women, devout before God. The more truly he lives the Christian life, the greater will be the difference between his practice and that of his Moslem neighbors, and the more noticeable will be the superiority of the Christian religion. The result cannot but be that the present tolerance of Christians will be replaced by the welcome reception of Christians, which indeed seems to be the impending stage of progress. And this in turn will be followed by the gathering in of those who have admired the Christian's better life, and have valued the Christian's better and surer faith and hope. Then will come that earnest seeking of multitudes such as is now being experienced in Korea and parts of India. To secure such power and such results, it is obvious that we must train and develop the children of the Mission to exert the best and widest Christian influence, and lead in reaping the harvest.

Further, all departments of the Mission work must grow. There will come a time when one school in each station will not be enough. As in China, India and elsewhere, branch schools will be established in outlying towns and villages and in new centers. The result of Christian teachers living in these places, will be the conversion of scholars and their families who will form Christian communities and will need Christian pastors. The most effective Christian teachers and pastors will be native Arab Christians educated and trained for the work from the earliest possible age. The present concern of the Mission will be to see that the available material for training is not neglected nor diverted into other less necessary employment for Christians or into less effective service. This training will include the young girls of the Mission, for even now more women could be occupied in reading and explaining the Bible in the harems where Christian women are already welcome. The Mission should always be concerned in training and making available the native Christian girls for this most important part of the Mission work.

That the resources at hand should be carefully developed is better recognized when we consider how difficult it is to obtain a sufficient and efficient staff of native workers. It is almost possible to secure for this field adult workers who know the language and customs of the people, and can be trusted to present and represent the life and teachings of Christ. Those natives born into the Oriental Christian church must overcome an almost mortal repugnance toward the Moslems. Let us thank God and have every admiration for those of our number who are working for the salvation of those whose co-religionists have robbed them of home and country, have oppressed, dispersed and massacred their families and their friends. Nevertheless, we must have Arabs to evangelize Arabia. We should give the adult converts every possible care. But we need also to prepare for the future by training the young Arabs. We may labor with greater encouragement for them, and also with greater zeal because we may expect greater results from their lives, for their whole lives will be spent for Christ, rather than only a part. They will have fewer un-Christian habits to overcome, and they will be trained when they are most impressionable and when their abilities may be developed. But the training will require the greatest attention and prayer. Unless the spirit of consecration to the service of God and their native brethren is carefully inculcated, their promise may fail. When they grow up they may be led into the religion of the majority around them, or they may devote their lives to some more profitable but less distinctively Christian service. The difficulties of the task before him, the hardships he must endure, the contempt and hatred he must live down, the fanaticism and evil he must overcome, the discouragement he must

suffer, will make Christian service among his brethren, the least inviting, the most disheartening life work. The temptation to enter some secular employment will be increasingly strong. His education will enable him to earn more than the Mission could or would pay him. Every advantage the young Arab Christian receives will make some of the Arab customs most distasteful to him, and separate him from the habits and conditions of his fellows. But the tremendous difficulty of the work, and the small number available for such training should only constrain us to make doubly sure of those few we can influence, that they may be ready and willing to undertake such service when the occasion, which is sure to come, does arrive.

The problem before us is a real one. Its importance for the future of our work cannot be overestimated. The supply of Arab Christian teachers and leaders and Bible women depends upon the attention given to their training. The difficulty to secure the supply we need may be too great for this generation of missionaries. But we shall gain nothing if we attempt nothing. And if we face the problem and the hindrances, we shall find that there is no little cause for encouragement. The Arab Christian may be influenced to devote his life to the evangelization of Arabia by all the feelings of patriotism and loyalty, which will impel him to labor for the greatest and deepest needs of his brethren. Besides, there is that in the Arab temperament which will incline him to religious work. He has the Semitic genius for divine worship and service, and to fail to take advantage of this natural inclination would be a great mistake. And by keeping before the young Christian always the high character of the work, its sacredness and its glory, by impressing upon him that there is no other work which will afford so great satisfaction, by appealing to all that is best in him to accept for his life vocation, that which is the noblest of life works, by using all the influence and arguments which have had power to bring us thousands of miles to labor for those we had never seen, we may be enabled to induce the young Arab Christian to spend his life for his own native brethren.

And yet, the difficulties are too great for us to overcome alone. We cannot but depend upon the power and action of God. To Him, indeed, belongs this work. He alone can provide and prepare, can commission and control those who are to carry on His work.

But it is for us to do our part, to attend to those whom God has put under our care, to qualify them for the service, to prepare them to hear the call of God. In doing so, we shall make sure that the generation to come shall "set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments." At the same time we shall be doing that which is wisest and most effective in securing the evangelization of Arabia.

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