

NEGLECTED ARABIA.

JANUARY—MARCH, 1913.

Where We Work.

We are thankful that nineteen hundred and thirteen will bring but few changes for our working force. There is always a considerable loss of time in changing from one station to another in our wide-spread field, and worse still, of friendships and understanding of local conditions which are only gained through years of patient toil. And yet furloughs, sickness and change of plans do sometimes necessitate redistribution of missionaries. The only changes this year are those of Mr. Moerdyk from inland Oman to Bahrein, and Mr. Pennings for part of the year from Bahrein to the river county of Amara and Nasaria.

Inland Oman which is worked from Maskat as a base is now in a very unsettled condition. For years the large gun trade at Muscat has been a thorn in the side of the Indian Government, many of the arms eventually finding their way through Persia and Baluchistan to be used as occasion permits against the British frontier forces. Large sums of money have been spent in patrolling adjacent waters with doubtful results. Recently, the Sultan of Maskat has been persuaded, for a consideration, to impose what are expected to be effective restrictions upon the sale of firearms in the city itself. This has greatly incensed the tribes inland, who have become quite modernized in their methods of killing each other, and they bitterly accuse His Highness of subserviency to an outside Christian nation, threaten revolt, and generally seem a bit lukewarm in their welcome to us. The Sultan also just now fears that our presence inland might give color to the accusation that he has a non-Islamic policy. We therefore have thought best to withdraw Mr. Moerdyk from his appointment. At the same time, however, we are strengthening our force of colporteurs and hope to keep the door open until this disturbance which is not of our making has quieted down. Mr. and Mrs. Barny, Miss Lutton, and Dr. and Mrs. Thoms will still do radiant service at Maskat and Matrah.

Leaving Maskat on our journey northward we soon reach Linga, the Arab town on the Persian side, where Yusuf, our Egyptian helper,

has won his way, and probably assured us of permanent occupancy.

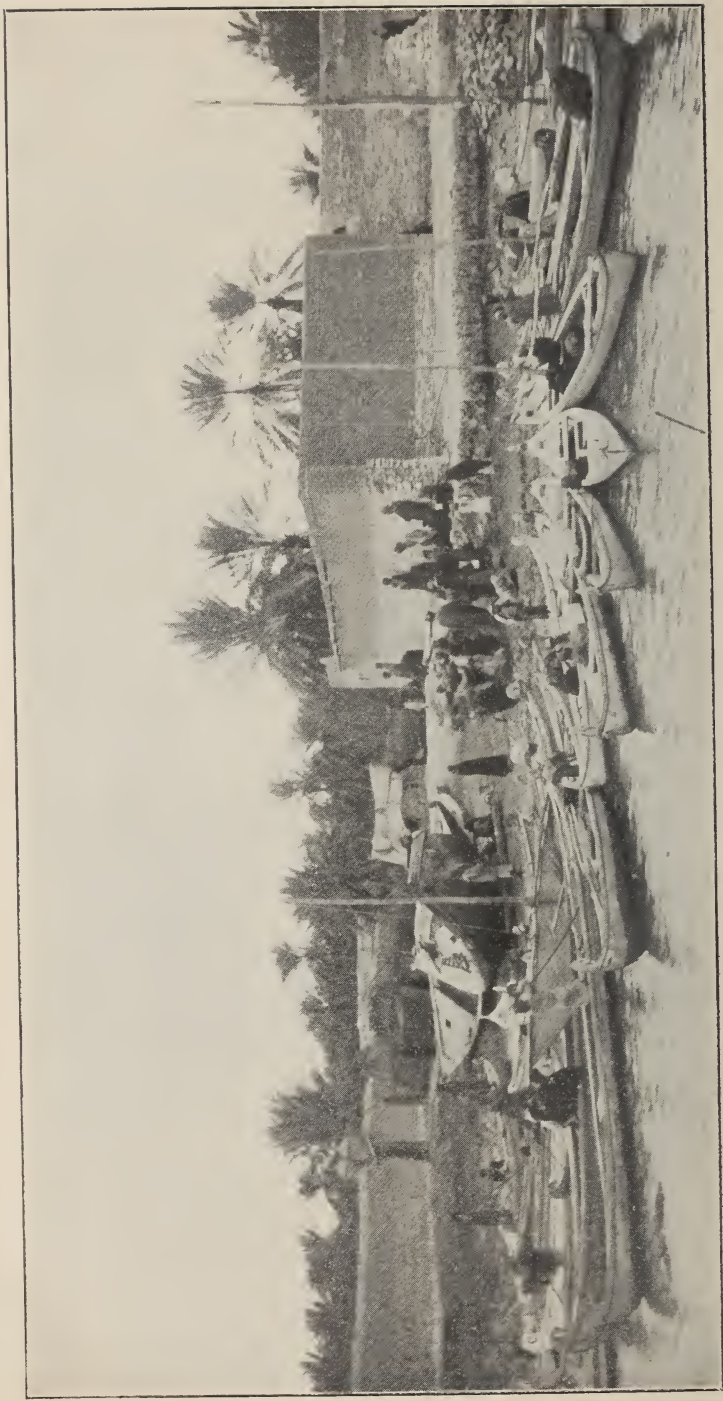
Before we reach Bahrein we pass by the so-called Pirate Coast, the scene of many encouraging visits and tours in years past, but which lately has been closed to us on account of local trouble. We hope that before long they will again see our faces and listen to our message.

Bahrein, which lost heavily by the transfer of Dr. Zwemer to



TYPICAL OMAN ARABS.

Cairo, will again this coming year, have two clergymen, one of whom will devote his main energies to educational work. Mr. Van Peursem will take this department while Mrs. Van Peursem will find opportunity to use her training as a nurse in the Mason Memorial Hospital. Bahrein is our central station, where many of the problems facing a new mission were first worked out, and where our activities first found full scope. The mainland—Turkish to the west and Arab



BUSRAH CANAL SCENE.

to the south—is often in unsettled condition, but the tendency is ever to a more firm and stable rule, giving us better grounds for our hopes of growth in these directions. Under the enlightened supervision of the Indian Government, the prosperity of the Islands seems permanently assured. Our mission here is amply provided with buildings, and with an adequate working force we face the future with much confidence. Dr. and Mrs. Worrall will continue their medical work, and Miss Scardefield is still in charge of the girls' school. Mr. Moerdyk will take Mr. Pennings' place early in the year.

At Kuwait there are no changes this year. Dr. Harrison and Mrs. Calverley will do their best to treat the growing number of patients, looking forward to the time when the new hospital shall be finished. Mr. Calverley has his hands full in trying to meet new opportunities, evangelistic and educational. Our friendship with the ruling Sheikh and his people seems to be increasing and opening new doors for us yearly. One of these is the hinterland merging into the Nejd country of the centre of Arabia. It will be a disappointment if this same Nejd does not see one of our number before many months are past. Kuwait is another of those places on the Gulf, which, under the wise political direction of the British Government, seems to have a bright future ahead.

As at Kuwait, so at Busrah, no changes have been made other than releasing Mr. Van Ess from outstation work and giving him all his time for the growing school. Mrs. Van Ess is entering an unworked field with her plans for a girls' school. One will undoubtedly help the other and together they will fairly represent the mission's purpose to push education in this promising quarter. Prosperity is opening the lives of the people to many new impulses and outside influences are making themselves more and more felt in religion as well as commerce. Here is our opportunity, nay, our obligation, to present our message in a manner fitted to the new conditions. We can of course, with God's help be faithful in *little* things—little schools, little preaching rooms, little colporteurage—but it must mean more to the progress of the Kingdom in Busrah if we have the chance to be faithful in larger things—larger schools, chapels, hospitals and bible shops—larger, better plans for reaching the many, many thousands all around us. In Busrah will be felt the only loss due to furlough this year. Mrs. Vogel will be leaving for America and there is no one to take her place in the village and outstations.

Amara and Nasaria will have what they did not have last year, a resident missionary. Mr. Pennings will be there for the larger part of the time. In this district there now seems to be a more peaceable