

A Mother in Israel

At her home in Stone Ridge, Ulster County, N. Y., there passed into the other life, on November 24th, Mrs. Charlotte Hasbrouck Cantine, the mother of Dr. James Cantine, of Arabia.

Mrs. Cantine, for many years a widow, had reached the extraordinary age of ninety-nine years, and until her last brief illness remained active in mind and body, with senses unimpaired and a keen interest in all the events of the day.

A large part of Dr. Cantine's last furlough was spent with her at the family homestead, one of the amply proportioned stone farm-



CANTINE HOMESTEAD AT STONE RIDGE, N. Y.

houses so characteristic of the Rondout Valley. It was here that, more than twenty-five years ago, there met Prof. J. G. Lansing, of New Brunswick Seminary, and Samuel M. Zwemer and James Cantine, then theological students, to draw up the plans and outline the constitution of the projected Mission to Arabia. Thus has this old farmhouse, in its narrow picturesque valley between the Shawangunks and the Catskills, become related to the movement of world-wide evangelism, and the simple annals of its home life become tangent to the romance of *The Arabian Nights*.

Dr. Cantine was his mother's youngest child. After his graduation from Union College in 1883 he was engaged for three years in the civil engineer's profession for which he had prepared himself.

Then came the clear call to the gospel ministry in heathen lands. When he had completed his seminary course and was ready for his work abroad, his mother was already an aged woman, and there were those who suggested that, in view of his mother's advanced years, he might well postpone his going to Arabia till after her decease. Not so the mother herself, who, though tenderly devoted to her gifted son, gladly surrendered him to his perilous mission.

It is touching to recall the fact that when Dr. Cantine first took his departure for Arabia and bade farewell to his mother, then over seventy-one years of age, it was with the mutual feeling that they would never meet on earth again. But in this they have been most happily disappointed, for more than twenty-five years have since passed and Dr. Cantine has four times come home on furlough, and made long, happy visits with his mother at the old home, and four times since have they parted with the feeling that their next meeting would be in the other life.

The Prospect of Help

The Board of Foreign Missions of the Reformed Church, U. S. A. ("German Reformed"), at its annual meeting in March, 1916, took definite action in regard to the opening of a station in the Moslem world. It is prepared to select the field and the missionaries,—a physician and an evangelist, when the necessary funds for negotiable guarantees amounting to \$5,000 annually are placed in the hands of the Board to enable it to carry on the work for at least five years, and has specified that these funds be in addition to the contributions now given for their work in Japan and China. A special committee was appointed to consider this important matter.

At the meeting of this Board in November, 1916, the Foreign Secretary of our own Foreign Mission Board was present by invitation and placed before it the opportunity for work in the Moslem world on the Eastern Coast of the Persian Gulf, suggesting that Bushire and Bunder Abbas in Persia might be the two centers of work, and that a chain of out-stations might be developed along the Persian Coast between these cities. The recent visit of the Foreign Secretary to the Persian Gulf and the unusual opportunity which he had to observe conditions on the Persian Coast enabled him to speak with fuller information than would otherwise have been possible. The matter has been taken into consideration by the Board of the Reformed Church in the U. S. A.

It would be a pleasure to the Trustees of the Arabian Mission, as also to the members of that Mission, to welcome representatives of our sister Church in work among Moslems in a region so near to our own. The work of these two Boards is closely associated in Japan, and it is very natural that Churches so intimately related in history and doctrine should be thus associated in the mission field.