



NEWS SHEET  
REPLACING PRO TEM.

# A THIRSTY LAND

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of the  
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He said not  
Thou shalt not be tempestod :  
Thou shalt not be travalled :  
Thou shalt not be afflicted :  
But He said  
Thou shalt NOT be overcome.

MOTHER JULIAN OF NORWICH, A.D. 1373.

Dear Friends of the A.M.B.,

Algeria at this season is full of brilliant sunshine and contrasting deep shadows—but these are a witness to the presence and shining of the sun. So, in this News Sheet there is joy and sorrow, light and shade, but in all and through all the presence and love of the Lord Himself shines out.

I received a letter not long ago, which was written by Miss Grautoff of Miliana at the

end of June. Early in July came a cable from Miss Russell telling of Miss Grautoff's serious illness, and of an operation which was followed by a second one during August. Letters take long to come from inland Algeria and we have little further news yet. Miss Grautoff was in the Miliana Hospital and had a good doctor; Miss Russell, and Mlle Buticaz—who went to their help—were with her night and day. Very warm nights are trying in early Autumn and the

weather is often sultry and hot. Miss Perkin wrote that she had seen Miss Grautoff, who was "cheerful and patient," in the midst of pain and weakness. We shall, I know, pray for this most valiant worker that God's peace may continue to garrison her heart and that His loving hand may be upon her in blessing, and in healing if it be His will. Miss Grautoff wrote in her last letter from Miliana, "Our Classes keep up fairly well. I had twenty little lads last Sunday and though it was very hot they were attentive on thé whole. We are hammering in the text: 'Enter in at the strait gate,' from a drawing of broad and narrow doors. Our visiting is somewhat interrupted because we find many little ways in which we can help men of our Forces. Sometimes by carrying teapots to those in the hospital, and sometimes by entertaining passers-by with cups of tea or cherries. A nice gift of tea was a great help, we cannot buy it here, only a kind of coarse cocoa or at times a little packet of coffee. If we get a gift of flour we make cakes or even fruit tarts for the men. Life is so lonely for those stationed so far from Algiers and we do what we can. My window here is open most days. It has French, Arabic, Hebrew, and English Scriptures in it." Blind Y. is once more with her husband and children in Miliana. But though he has brought her back he is not kind to her and has gone far astray. Their two little boys were going daily to the Mission House to be taught.

The hot season should mean a time of holiday and for some it has been possible to get away from their station for a short time. We are glad also to know that Mr. and Mrs. Thomson and Maureen have arrived safely home, on furlough, after a very long and difficult voyage.

Mr. and Mrs. Buckenham were taking turns for a short rest at Dar Naama. Mr. B. writes, "We cannot bring ourselves to an interruption of the marvellous things God is doing with the men who come and go. Soul-saving work is going on, and we do not want to shut the house and both come away together."

Mrs. Stalley writes from Tlemcen: "The Arab work is not neglected, Miss

Wood carries on faithfully her small classes of women and children and house to house visiting where she always receives a warm welcome. With regard to the young men, although it is not possible to have Classes for them at present, it is interesting to note that nearly all those who were the most faithful attenders at the Classes are now working with my husband in some capacity or other in the Red Cross Club, and so are still 'in touch.' Andrew is one of their right hand men. At present he is much concerned with the question of marriage. He wants a home of his own and he wants it to be a Christian one. The great problem is to find a suitable wife. We know you are praying with us over this difficult matter."

In another letter Mrs. Stalley wrote that they had a visit from the young Arab soldier, Lakdar, who had just been married at Dar Naama to F. a Kabyle girl, a real Christian. Mrs. S. writes, "From the first we were favourably impressed. He is an Arab, brought up in an American Mission Home, a true Christian we believe."

It is a great joy to know of this marriage which may mean, by God's blessing, yet another home-light shining out for Christ in the darkness of Islam. I have received a very nice letter from this young soldier since the wedding, in which he says how glad he is to have married a Christian girl. This is not a union "arranged" by anyone but is the free choice of the two concerned—who, first met in the Christian activities of a band of young people.

It was to classes in a country Mission Station that F. came as a little child, from a home without love or peace. A small quiet girl, she was well behaved, but had a decided character of her own. She brought when quite little, one of the flower-like coloured wax "lanterns," to offer one Christmas time "for the Lord Jesus." And the Good Shepherd, who saw the love in a childish heart, followed after her and led her down the years, when, far from earthly help at times, she might so easily have wandered into the darkness. From time to time He sent one of His children to give a bit of help or teaching, and many are "rejoicing together," in answered prayer. It may interest some to

read gleanings from an account sent by Miss Layte, of this Christian wedding which took place at Dar Naama on July 10th. In the morning the two young people were married by the mayor of the village, according to Civil Law. In the afternoon the "real wedding" took place. Mr. Buckenham who had long been the one chosen by the bride to give the blessing on the marriage came up from Blida. Monsieur Nicoud acted as the bride's father and Miss Perkin stood by Lakdar. Everyone thought that F. made a sweet little bride in her simple white frock and long veil, with a bouquet of white carnations and marguerites to complete the purity of the picture. The Prayer Court looked as beautiful as ever, marguerites and delicate leaves being the chief decorations. Red carpets from Gharidaia were spread along the aisle. Every thing had been cleaned and polished for the occasion, and the Court was once more transformed into a Church instead of being a canteen. One of our Christian friends in the Forces struck up the opening march on the organ as the procession entered. About seventy guests were seated already and many more came in later. The bridegroom tall, thin, and full of smiles was in uniform, with a white carnation in his buttonhole. How proud he looked of his bride! The service was in French, the language common to bride and bridegroom.

The hymns were chosen by F. from "Chants de Victoire." The first one was "To God be the glory." After a prayer by a French pastor, a former missionary, the second hymn was sung, a beautiful one which well expressed the desire of the young couple. "In Thy hands I place all that I call my own." Mr. Buckenham then gave a message based on the verse, "Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it." He reminded F. specially of those who had sought to "build her up" in the Lord, and who would have loved to be there on that day. That was the past, but there was the obligation of the present—i.e. Rom. 12. 1. And for the future, God had brought them together for a purpose—to build a portion of His

Church in their own home; both of them were part of that great "assembly" of Heb. 12. 23, and they both would have the privilege and the responsibility of bearing witness to the Gospel in the home they hoped to make. The two were then joined in marriage, after which the hymn for such occasions was sung. An American missionary then committed the two young lives to God, and the Service was concluded by singing, "He who would conqueror be," and the doxology in English, "How good is the God we adore."

There were over eighty guests of many races and creeds who gathered at daintily arranged tables in the Orange Court. The afternoon was not too hot, and all enjoyed a well-served tea. The wedding cake was home-made, and we can scarcely remember now how the icing and decorations were achieved. One couldn't decide whether it looked like an early Victorian hat, or a decorated ham, but the taste was good!

Among the guests were, many of the Kabyle girls from the American Home, a native couple—Moslems, witnessing a real Christian union—many missionaries, representatives from R.A.F., Fleet Air Arm, and R.A.M.C., an English padre, French friends, and others.

The young couple had only six days before the bridegroom had to return to his barracks in Morocco, the bride remaining at her post in Dar Naama for the present. During the few days they had together their unselfish hospitality was remarked by all. The ceremony surely spoke to many hearts, and we believe marked the beginning of united lives which will bear a faithful testimony and abiding fruit in this thirsty land.

May we, who read this account and rejoice, be faithful in our prayers that God will keep these two by His power, safe from the attacks of the Evil One who will seek by every means to hinder them in their Christian life and witness. That "He that hath begun . . . will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ," is their prayer and ours.

M. and Mme Lull and their three little girls have come up from the great heat of

their desert Station, Tolga, to stay for the summer in the Setif Mission Station, the Thomsons being away. Before leaving Tolga, M. Lull did a colportage tour on his bicycle. A letter from him brings the story, extracts from which will certainly call forth prayer for God's blessing on the seed so faithfully sown.

"I have just finished my colportage journey which lasted eight days and a half. I visited all the villages in the neighbourhood of Biskra, and those that border the road from the latter town to Batna. In all I visited twenty-two villages. Almost everywhere I had a welcome, and the sale of books was good.

I did not go by train or motor bus at all. In eight days I did 362 miles and I find that the pedal cycle provides a splendid means of doing colportage. I was able to stop anywhere, to offer Gospels to men at work on the railway or on the road, to reapers or those threshing the corn, and also to travellers. Some days I sold half my pack of books in this way.

I left home on a Monday morning and the work began that afternoon with a visit to the villages of D. and C. In the former I found very few people, most of the inhabitants were busy killing the young locusts in the desert. There was an invasion by these 'criquets' after the passage of the locusts, and the whole population of the region had been set to work by the authorities to fight this plague which endangers the harvest including that of the date palms. In one village I visited, the bach-agma after having examined my credentials bought many Gospels and Tracts and encouraged his employees to buy also. In the village the sales were very good—nearly a hundred Gospels and Tracts were bought. But towards the end, the word 'infidel' was whispered and finally shouted, and some Gospels were burnt. As I left the village by a side road some rough lads met me and pursued me with curses, insults, and stones, but without effect. A bicycle is splendid in a situation of this kind!

At another place I met a group of men who had been at Tolga two years ago for the date harvest, and who had come regularly

to our evening meetings. Two of them were very eager in telling the others what they had seen and heard at our house and encouraged everyone to buy.

Another day I made a round of nearly forty miles. One old marabout who remembered a missionary coming thirty years ago on a camel, encouraged his flock to buy the Gospels. At another village the Sheikh received me most kindly and gave me cold water to drink and also coffee. It was very acceptable for it was midday and extremely hot.

At F. the sales were good, threshers and reapers being the chief buyers.

On this colportage tour which I felt was a good one I sold 553 books, the greater part being Gospels. I was very conscious of God's presence in the work, and of the reality of the promise of the Lord Jesus, 'I am with you.' Now may God bless all this living seed to very many souls!"

There is much to call forth our united praises and prayers in this News Sheet and if we ask anything in His Name He "will do it."

Mr. Russell has once more kindly audited the Accounts and we hope to publish the Balance Sheet in our next number.

It is a great pleasure to bring to notice the reprinting of Miss Trotter's wonderful booklet, "A Lite on Fire," by *The Fellowship of Faith, for the Moslems*—106 High-bury New Park, London, N.5. From whom it may be obtained, or from this Office. Price 2d., postage 1d.

Your fellow worker,

MILLICENT H. ROCHE.

(Hon. Sec.)

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*Late News.*—A cable has been received saying that Miss Grautoff and Miss Russell expect to come to England soon. This must mean that Miss G. is considerably better, for which we are very thankful.

M. H. R.