

Continuing "NORTH AFRICA."

The N.A.M. News Letter



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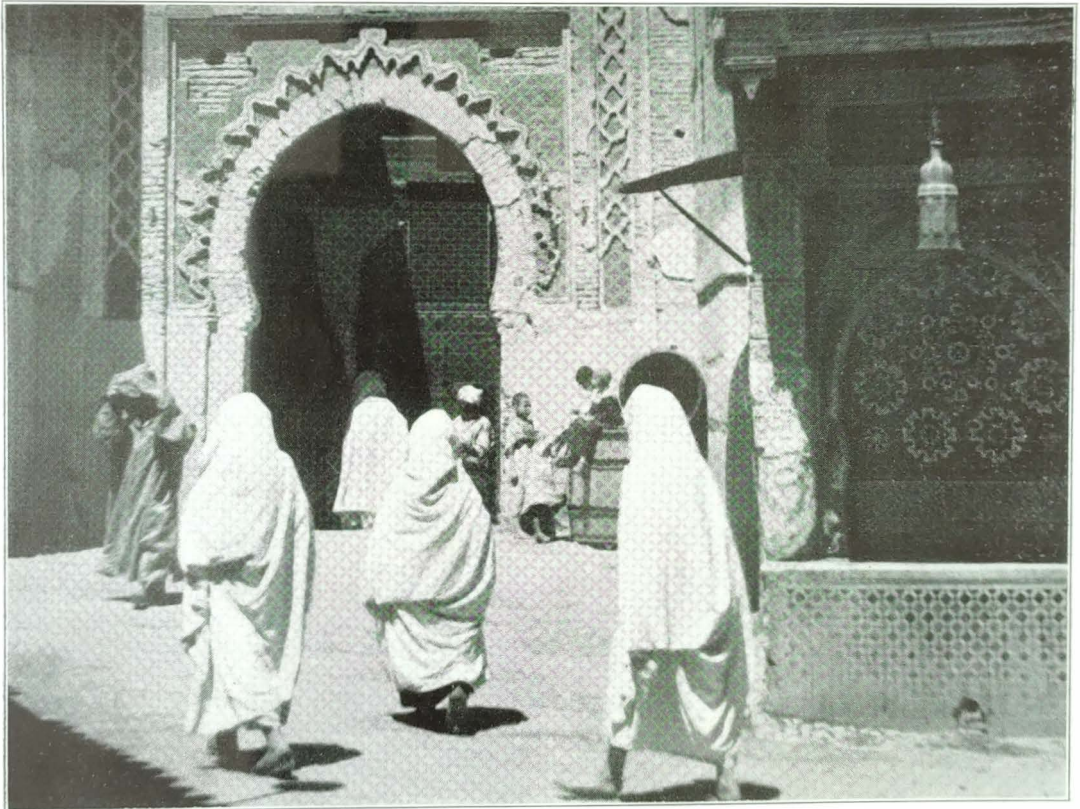


Photo by]

VEILED WOMEN OF FEZ, MOROCCO.

[E. J. Long

It is among such women as these that our veteran missionary, Miss S. M. Denison, has been labouring for well-nigh fifty years. We trust that the knowledge that during these months of war, our sister is quite alone in this stronghold of Islam, will provoke to special prayer on her behalf.

News from the Field

IN sending forth this further news from the Field we would once again remind our readers that the various items come to us, not direct from the workers themselves,

but through the intermediary of Mr. Warren, of Tangier, who serves as a valued *liaison* officer, keeping us in constant touch with our missionaries, and, reciprocally, transmitting funds and news from Headquarters.

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Mr. Warren's letters are air-mailed via Lisbon—a service that fluctuates considerably both with regard to frequency and in the time taken. A recent batch of correspondence has taken about a month to reach us, whereas occasionally we have received our letters in ten days. However, we must console ourselves with the reflection that the sending of news by surface mail from "enemy-controlled" North Africa would take considerably longer.

One final word of comment. The news-items detailed below are obviously only those that Mr. Warren considered of sufficient interest to pass on to us. Still, they supplement very helpfully what was related in the last NEWS LETTER. Correspondence that Mr. Warren has received from other stations has probably related to matters of a business or purely private character. We may take it for granted that where stations have been omitted from the following résumé, the work and workers are progressing in a normal manner.

MENÂA.—The outstanding item of cheering news concerns **Mr. Charles Cook** and his wife and family. Our brother served with the French Army—France affording no exemption from military service for missionaries—but was, through the Lord's goodness, in Southern ("unoccupied") France at the time of the capitulation. We knew he had made application to the Vichy Government for permission to return to Algeria, but the news that he is actually back once more at his station comes to us as a most pleasant surprise.

The Lord has indeed wonderfully answered prayer. Not only is Monsieur Cook back again among his native friends at Menâa, but he has already renewed contact with his French "parishioners" at the out-station of Batna, the local authorities having granted him permission to use his car two or three times a month for the journey to and fro, besides sanctioning the purchase of the necessary supply of petrol.

Our prayers will surround our brother as he resumes his pioneering labours among the Chaouia people to whom the Lord so signally called him.

TUNIS.—Another young man, **Mr. R. Brown**, of Tunis, has further good news to relate. He writes: "I re-open my letter to tell of a marvellous answer to prayer. It looked very much as if I should receive no

further permission to continue my trips, but this morning I received my Circulating Permit, which lasts for a month and covers a tremendous area, and which can be renewed monthly. Hence I shall be off to Kairouan next week, and after that shall tackle a further long trip (by 'bus and bicycle) all over the country, as GOD permits. Truly He is a wonder-working GOD!"

In a later letter Mr. Brown continues: "I went to Kairouan and passed two nights there, covering in all 220 miles. My sales were 85 francs, including three New Testaments. I had many short conversations and felt the Lord was very present. In Kairouan I had the joy of meeting three or four French Christians with whom we had fellowship. I am always impressed with the high esteem and the good name of the past workers in Kairouan. 'A good name is better to be chosen than greatness.'

"I went to see the little grave of the Longs' son, and rejoiced to see this quiet little witness and message of hope amid much that is hopeless." [The reference is to a grave-stone, in the form of an open book, upon which verses from the Gospel had been inscribed as a testimony to wayfarers.—Ed.]

"For two years Kairouan has pulled much at my heart; perhaps one day I shall have the joy of working there. The whole trip was 'pretty tough', but praise God for many scores spoken to, and for the seed widely sown. Now for a few days in town, and then off again."

From the same station (Tunis) **Mr. Stanley Miles** writes with similar enthusiasm. It will be remembered that, under normal circumstances, Mr. and Mrs. Miles would have been in the Homeland just now, their furlough having fallen due in the spring of the year. They deferred their departure, however, so that their daughter Muriel might sit for an important school examination; but, France's capitulation supervening, our friends had perforce to stay on in North Africa.

It is gratifying to learn that Muriel has done extremely well at her studies, and has recently been chosen as prefect of the school.

With regard to the missionary work in Tunis, Mr. Miles writes: "Our Bible Depot sales for the period September 20 to October 30 were about 500 francs. We are having daily really helpful times of witnessing, with groups of natives more appreciative than usual, and less inclined to hide defensively behind the old 'stock arguments.' Our

Sunday afternoon Bible Study meeting is going ahead, and we earnestly desire that our friends should join us in prayer that others whom we invite may be inclined to attend week by week."

LAFAYETTE (Algeria).—Another worker who writes in happy vein is **Mr. Charles Marsh**, whose facility in the Kabyle, Arabic and French tongues enables him to maintain a three-fold testimony in Lafayette and in scores of the surrounding villages. We feared that our brother's work would be seriously handicapped through lack of petrol, and for a time this was so. Recently, however, he has begun again to obtain supplies, and has in consequence been able to get out among the villages once more. The people have given him a most cheering welcome.

At Lafayette itself, Mr. Marsh says the work is returning more and more to the position as it was last year. The meetings for men have been started again, whilst the meeting held weekly for sick folk is being well attended.

DJEMAA SAHRIDJ.—**Mr. Willson** reports that the attendance at the Gospel services is being well maintained, and that visits to the out-stations continue practically as usual. Our brother is much encouraged by the progress that a recent convert is making; and he adds "There are others on the way."

OUED AMIZOUR.—**Miss Degenkolw** finds "many homes open to the Gospel," and hopes soon to resume her classes. The dispensary work is suffering somewhat because of the great difficulty in obtaining medical supplies just now.

TETUAN (Spanish Zone).—From all accounts the work of **Miss Low** and **Miss Bradbury** is in full swing. The native lads continue coming on Thursdays, and Miss Bradbury prizes the opportunities thus afforded of teaching them texts from the Holy Scriptures. This is surely the most worth while of all branches of missionary work; for the Scriptures thus memorised in childhood are probably never forgotten, and may at any time be used of the Holy Spirit to "make wise unto salvation through faith that is in Christ Jesus."

Miss Low writes very happily, too, with regard to the dispensary work, the visiting, the knitting class and the Sunday meeting.

CASABLANCA.—Now that the long series of native feasts has at length drawn to a close, there is every prospect of **Miss Ross's** work (in which she has **Miss Grant's** collaboration)

continuing without further interruption for a further six months or so. Those who remember how unremitting our sister is in her labours will be glad to know that she has had a pleasant holiday at Mogador.

Miss Banks—also writing from Casablanca—says that **Señor Padilla** (the brother of our Tangier friend) is being greatly encouraged in his visits. A new French family has become very interested in the Bible. The Sunday meetings seem to be progressing quite happily.

The Late Rev. J. J. Cooksey

WITH the passing of the Rev. J. J. Cooksey (at Blackheath, on November 23rd), the cause of Christ among the Moslems has suffered a great loss. Gifted both as linguist and writer (his "Land of the Vanished Church" is a work of outstanding merit), Mr. Cooksey was pre-eminently a missionary. Although his wife's ill-health compelled him to return to the Homeland some fourteen years ago, his heart was ever in Tunisia, where his labours in association with the North Africa Mission began in 1896.

At that time Mr. Cooksey was stationed at Sousse, with Dr. T. G. Churcher, and soon afterwards became the first resident missionary in Kairouan, the "Holy" City.

Our brother's fluent Arabic, and his gracious charm of manner, won for him a place of esteem and warm affection in the hearts of many young Moslems; and during his latter years in Tunis students from the university Mosque attended his Mission Hall and listened with respect to his able messages in defence of the Gospel.

Our friends at the World Dominion Press, to whose publications Mr. Cooksey has so helpfully contributed during the past fourteen years, have lost a valued and beloved colleague.

To dear Mrs. Cooksey and other members of the family we extend our deepest sympathy.

Lord Halifax and Foreign Missions

THE considerate attitude of the British Government towards missionary work during the present crisis finds its most encouraging expression in a letter addressed by the Foreign Secretary, Lord Halifax, to Dr. W. Paton, Secretary of the International Missionary Council, in reply to the latter's query

regarding the support of foreign missionary work at the present juncture.

The concluding paragraph of Lord Halifax's letter runs as follows :

"As you know, action already taken by several Government departments has shown the desire of the British Government that the services rendered by Christian missions should continue. I am myself quite clear that the support of foreign missionary work in time of war is an essential part of the Church's witness. I should much regret if

the responsibility which Christian people rightly feel towards the special needs and charities that press upon us in war-time should lead them to desert this permanent and universal Christian obligation."

Such gracious and unequivocal words, coming from one in high authority, are profoundly reassuring at a time when our outstanding concern is the maintenance of Gospel testimony in North Africa, and the regular transmission to workers on the field of essential financial supplies.

Daily Prayer for Missionaries and Others

Those of our Prayer Circle friends who have for some time past found it helpful to follow a daily prayer list, and thus to bring the needs of specific stations and workers before the Throne of Grace at least once a month, may find the following revised list of service in this connection :

1. CASABLANCA. ARAB WORK.—Mr. V. Swanson, Miss M. W. Ross, Miss E. Grant.
SPANISH AND ITALIAN WORK.—Misses Banks and Bowring, Mr. J. Padilla.
2. FEZ. Miss Denison.
3. GUERCIF. Mrs. Simpson.
4. RABAT. Misses Dew and Sharpe.
5. SETTAT. Misses Buxton and Reed.
6. TANGIER. T. M. HOSPITAL.—Dr. and Mrs. Anderson, Nurses Bowker and Carty, Misses Gladwyn and Griffiths.
HOPE HOUSE.—Miss Lickman and Staff.
7. TANGIER. Mr. and Mrs. Warren, Misses Craggs, Glen, Rokeby-Robinson, Lincoln, Collard, Hoadley, Drury, Hubbard and Knight.
SPANISH WORK.—Señor Padilla.
8. TAZA. Misses Marston and Chapman.
9. TETUAN. Misses Bradbury and Low, and Spanish believers.
10. ALGIERS. Mrs. Ross, Miss M. Ross, Mr. Shorey, Miss K. Smith.
11. AZAZGA. Mr. and Mrs. Arthur.
12. MENÂA. Mr. and Mrs. Cook.
13. CHERCHELL. Mr. and Mrs. Bocking, Mr. Pearce.
14. DJEMÂA SAHRIDJ. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, Miss M. Fearnley, Miss Widmer, Miss Marsh.
15. LAFAYETTE. Mr. and Mrs. Marsh.
16. OUED-AMIZOUR. Miss Degenkolw and Miss Ward.
17. GAFSA. Misses Brookes and Kraulis.
18. TUNIS. Mr. and Mrs. Miles, Mr. Brown.
19. NATIVE CHRISTIANS. Secret Believers and Enquirers.
20. PARIS. Miss Tilney.
21. SOUTHERN FRANCE. Monsieur Hocart.
22. CHILDREN OF MISSIONARIES.
23. AT HOME. FROM FEZ.—Miss de la Camp, Mr. and Mrs. Cooper, Mr. and Mrs. Morgan, Miss Harman, Miss Higbid.
24. AT HOME. FROM TUNIS.—Dr. and Mrs. Liley, Misses Tapp, Petter and Gotelee.
25. AT HOME. FROM NABEUL.—Mr. and Mrs. Morriss, Mrs. Short, Miss Clack.
FROM GAFSA.—Miss Jones.
26. AT HOME. FROM BÔNE.—Mr. and Mrs. Ewing.
FROM BOUGIE.—Mr. and Mrs. Twaddle.
27. AT HOME. FROM CHERCHELL.—Miss Collins, Miss Howell (now in Canada).
FROM MEKLA.—Miss E. Fearnley.
28. AT HOME. FROM TANGIER.—Mrs. Padilla and Miss Henman.
FROM ORAN.—Mrs. Webb.
ACCEPTED CANDIDATES. — Misses Little and McRobbie.
29. COUNCIL, SECRETARY AND STAFF.
30. MR. E. J. LONG AND DEPUTATION WORK.
31. IN AMERICA.—Dr. Harvey Farmer and American Auxiliary, Mrs. Swanson, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Smith.