

Continuing "NORTH AFRICA."

# The N.A.M. News Letter

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Photo by

ON THE SPONGE ISLANDS OF KERKENA

(See following paragraph)

[Mr. J. T. Leadbetter

## Our Oldest "Living Link"

IT is seldom that the photographer is of more interest than his snapshot, but here we have a notable exception. As far back as 1875—six years before the first missionaries set foot in Algeria in 1881—Mr. J. T. Leadbetter, a Scottish business man, went out to the seaport of Sfax, in Tunisia, in connection

with the esparto grass trade, and remained there for well over half a century.

An earnest believer, Mr. Leadbetter was throughout his long career a cordial and most helpful friend of missionaries; and all who have lived and laboured at Sfax—particularly Mrs. Webb and Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Miles—have become deeply attached to him.

Mr. Leadbetter is a bachelor, and although almost a nonagenarian, continued his sea-bathing until last year! He resides now at Hamilton, Lanarkshire, and not only "keeps in touch" with the Editor of the NEWS LETTER, but writes voluminous letters full of happy reminiscences and redolent of Sfax ("City of Cucumbers"), Djerba ("Land of the Lotus Eaters") and the Sponge Islands of Kerkena.

It was whilst visiting these Islands (where, incidentally, Mr. and Mrs. Miles spent their honeymoon evangelising the natives) that Mr. Leadbetter took the snapshot that we have used as a frontispiece. Mrs. Webb was among the party which made the 11-mile crossing from Sfax. The young European in the photograph is Mrs. Miles's nephew, Jocelyn Chatel, whose grandfather, Pasteur Bureau, was the first N.A.M. missionary in Tunisia, having originally gone out to Tlemcen (in Algeria) in 1884.

Friends of the N.A.M. will, we are confident, be happy to join us in sending our warmest greetings to Mr. Leadbetter, our oldest "living link"—not perhaps with the *Mission*, but certainly with the *Field*.

## *News from the Field*

WHEN Columbus was sailing on his quest for the New World, we are told that his crew became restive and mutinous; but nothing shook the steadfast faith of their captain. During the long succession of weary, featureless days, ringed about by the monotonous, unbroken circle of the unchanging ocean, Columbus set down a sentence again and again in his diary: "This day we sailed on."

The news that trickles through from the Field is scanty in measure, and much that we would love to know has to remain unwritten for the present; but we feel that Columbus's laconic entry would well describe many a featureless day in North Africa: "This day we sailed on." There is an equivalent New Testament expression, however, that lifts such true Christian fortitude to a high spiritual plane. It is Paul's phrase, "Patient continuance in well-doing" (Rom. 2. 7); and we are sure that this daily endurance of our workers amidst the strain of war will bring the "glory and honour" of Heavenly approval of which the Apostle writes.

That our workers have not lost their sense of humour is proved by a circular letter that has reached us from **Mr. Stanley Miles**, of Tunis, and most of which is reproduced on the back page. We learn from other sources, too, that both Mr. Miles and **Mr. Brown** are exceedingly active in Tunis, where the work continues to enjoy much of God's blessing.

Mr. Brown recently had the joy of baptising a young aviator, whilst an Arab seaman has been baptised by **Sidi Beddal**.

A typhus epidemic—that grim camp-follower of war—has closed many homes to the visits of **Mrs. Marsh** of Lafayette. It is good to learn that "the majority of the cases are making a good recovery." At the Hammam the witness is still being maintained, though scarcity of drugs hampers the medical side of the work.

**Mr. Willson** of Djemâa Sahridj is greatly encouraged in his out-station work, whilst **Mr. Shorey**, by virtue of his age (he is now 70), is less restricted than hitherto in his movements about Algiers. We are glad to know that he has a special daily milk ration.

**Mr. Warren's** health has given us much concern. He had a very bad time for something like seven months. Practically every known treatment for asthma was tried out, with disappointing results; and the last experiment of all—dieting—was very weakening. In his last letter (dated Oct. 22nd) Mr. Warren writes: "At Tetuan I picked up well, then got some intestinal trouble and just managed to get back here by a miracle. But that, too, is over; and now I am sleeping fairly well and do not have much asthma, though I am still far from strong and have to go very carefully. However, I can now put in a fair day in the office, and we are catching up on the work."

We earnestly trust that this change for the better may be maintained. Mr. Warren's duties are arduous and exacting, and the handicap of poor health is a very crippling one.

**Miss Drury** of Tangier, **Miss Bradbury** of Tetuan, and **Miss W. Ross** of Casablanca have all written recently to Mr. Warren, and seem genuinely encouraged in their work for the Lord. All of them are eager for our remembrance in prayer.

**Mr. P. Padilla**, who stayed on in Tangier when his wife and son came to England, is especially deserving of our prayers. He really is doing a splendid work, and is being greatly encouraged, as the following extracts from a recent report will show :—

“Our Gospel Meetings have continued normally, and the Lord continues to bless us. In spite of the difficult times, and the strong influence exercised by the R. C. Church here, our gatherings have been very well attended, and fresh souls are coming under the power of the Gospel.

“Not long ago the Lord gave us the joy of seeing four of our dear people give public testimony to their faith by baptism. One man, two women, and a young girl. We had a great time of wonderful blessing. The room was quite full, 83 being gathered together.”

Baptisms at Tunis, baptisms at Tangier ; and cheering tokens of blessing on many an intermediate station. **GOD IS WORKING :** Let us go on praying—and praising !

## *Our Faithful GOD*

THE Mission has cause for much thankfulness to GOD in that He has graciously inclined one of His servants to contribute a special gift for our workers in view of the increased cost of living. This gift has been a very real “GOD-send” to them, as it has not been possible for the Mission to make increases in the pre-war allowances, although this would have been fully justified by the higher cost of food, clothing, etc.

To the praise of GOD we would add that, from the same worthy source, funds have been received which will considerably lighten the financial burden of the Mission for the coming year.

## *In the Homeland*

**Mrs. J. A. Liley** continues to render invaluable service to the N.A.M. by her splendid deputation work. Recently she very courageously flew across to Ireland, where she is finding many openings among keen evangelicals for telling of the Lord’s work in North Africa.

**Miss Ada Clack** and **Miss Mabel Jones** are carrying on their excellent work at Rhyl in new premises. The caravan life has much

to commend it whilst “summer suns are glowing,” but the severity of winter demands more substantial shelter ; and in their new place at **8, Carlisle Avenue, Rhyl, Flints.**, our good friends have facilities for entertaining A.T.S. and similar girls for whom a taste of Christian home life—and, above all, an opportunity of meeting the Saviour—may be fraught with eternal blessing. Your special remembrance in prayer is earnestly desired.

## *The late Mrs. J. Gordon Logan*

HER many friends in the Homeland, and a host of missionaries scattered all over the world, will learn with the deepest regret of the Homecall of Mrs. J. Gordon Logan.

Mrs. Logan was a woman of rare saintliness and singular charm, and the cause of Christ among the Moslems never had a stauncher champion, nor workers among Moslems a more faithful friend.

Her tender, understanding letters, her loving sympathy, but above all her loyal remembrance in prayer, have meant more to a great company of missionaries than perhaps any other single human factor. She will be greatly missed.

As Honorary Secretary of the Fellowship of Faith for the Moslems, Mrs. Logan was an indefatigable worker ; and her gracious presence at the Annual Meetings, and particularly at the “Slavanka” Conferences, was an inspiration to us all.

To dear Mr. Logan and the son and daughter, whose great loss so many share, we extend our most affectionate sympathy.

## *Parable of the Baker's Shop*

DOWN below, alongside of us, an Arab baker installed himself six or seven years ago. This means that for hours every night two men had swung on the huge “see-saw” which in some mysterious way kneads their bread ; and every blow backwards and forwards vibrated through our house. Now at last the result is seen—the shattering of masonry that looked as if it would last as long as the world.

Once more “the invisible things” are “being understood by the things that are made.” For there is a vibrating power going on down in the dust and darkness of this world that can make itself visible in startling results

in the upper air and sunlight of the invisible world—"mighty through GOD to the pulling down of strongholds," "casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of GOD." *Each prayer-beat down here vibrates up to the very Throne of GOD, and does its work through that Throne on the principalities and powers around us; just as each one of the repeated throbs from below told on the structure of our house, though it was only the last that produced the visible effect.*

We can never tell which prayer will liberate the answer, but we can tell that each one will do its work.

—*The late Lilius Trotter.*

### **"This is Tunis Calling!"**

UNDER this heading we have just received from Mr. Stanley Miles, of Tunis, a communication that suggests the script of a radio broadcast rather than the conventional circular letter. Here are some extracts:—

"A missionary's life is made up of interruptions. How much grace is needed, with this constant obtrusion upon the regular work! But the Lord frequently turns them into blessing for somebody. Here is an example:—

"My wife looks in at the Bible Depot to ask if I can get some milk to-day. That means standing in a queue, or 'holding the tail,' as the Arabs put it. Really, these tails get longer and longer every day. Well, what we need is a little patience, a little prayer, something to read, and eye and ear alert for an opportunity of witnessing.

"What a broad back this fellow has in front of me! Landscape quite blotted out! What a sad face this man has behind me! Enquiry reveals that it is a case of business worries and family sorrow; so I show him a little leaflet I have just received from Tangier, entitled 'The LORD Reigneth'—words repeated again and again in the Book of Psalms. As the queue moves slowly along I translate extracts to him.

"I get home to lunch, and here are examples of further interruptions: 'You may be called out for a funeral this afternoon . . . Reverend D. asks if you can address

his School at 8 o'clock on Monday morning . . . The Municipal authorities want you at Bureau No. 4 some time this week . . . By the way, when are you going to write to So and So?'

"Well, it's good to be alive, and to have plenty to do. I received a letter this morning addressed, not 'Sidi Zahmoul,' but 'Sidi Barrani'! Shows where the writer's thoughts were! But it contained splendid news of his Young People's Meetings.

"Since June, 1940, we have undergone startling and peculiar changes. Those in the domestic sphere we can accept philosophically, and with, I trust, some measure of good humour; but the growing tide of spiritual evil gives us deep concern. False movements have alarmingly increased in number, intensity, and sphere of operation. Lately one of our best native converts went right over to the Seventh Day Adventists. I believe it will prove just a phase; but at the same time we would earnestly seek your prayerful remembrance of him, as well as of others who have not yet learnt rightly to divide the Word of Truth.

"Several believers are being tried in other ways—in their home life, in their business. Some are in prison; some are at 'Wit's End Corner;' yet they carry on!

"The children too, as you can imagine, do not find it easy; but they are a bright, active band, representing several different nationalities; and many of them are growing in grace and are zealous in service. Old and young love to hear that you are praying for them!

"It is six years since we left the Home shores . . . Often we wish we could fly over and spend again happy hours in those homes and centres where in bygone years we have enjoyed such splendid fellowship. Often we pray for you; seldom we write; but every letter from you is a tonic and a thrill; so KEEP ON WRITING!"

We are sure that this intimate "close-up" of missionary life in war-time will enable our readers to pray more intelligently, and with deeper sympathy, for the gallant band of workers through whom the Lord is maintaining a bright witness in times that were never more difficult.