

Continuing "NORTH AFRICA."

The N.A.M. News Letter



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Photo by]

A TUNISIAN "CINDERELLA."

[E.J.L.

The late Miss Christine Tinling once commissioned the Editor to buy her a camera. He selected one (from an excellent assortment at Soussse), strolled through the native town, and, in the half-hour before sun-down, secured quite a variety of thoroughly "native" snapshots on the first spool of films. The above was one of them. The sweet little face has a poignancy all its own. This is a little "Cinderella," a household drudge, an uncared-for child—a wistful specimen of the unwanted, unwelcomed, unloved infant girl of the Moslem world. "Is work among Moslems worth while?" How can it be otherwise, when lambs like this, dear to the heart of the Good Shepherd, are lovingly gathered into classes at the Mission House, and told of a "gentle Jesus"—GOD'S dear Son—Who loves them, and longs to gather them in His arms!

The late Mrs. E. H. Glenny

IN the last issue of the NEWS LETTER we had opportunity of making only a "stop press" reference to the Homecall of Mrs. E. H. Glenny, beloved widow of the Founder and Honorary Secretary of the North Africa Mission. Mrs. Glenny was in her 92nd year.

The following lines were written, at our invitation, by one who knew her most intimately; and we are deeply grateful to the writer for furnishing us with this brief sketch of a fragrant, saintly and utterly unselfish life:—

"From her earliest years Mrs. Glenny had a deep concern for those who did not share her simple faith in Christ, and from the age of twelve till the time of her departure she was greatly blessed in leading others to Him.

"For the first twenty years of her married life in Barking she threw herself wholeheartedly into the Home for Missionary Candidates there, helping her husband in his many activities at home and abroad in addition to bringing up a family of six children.

"After leaving this district she continued her life of unceasing service and never spared herself in her efforts to extend the Kingdom of God. Always of a retiring nature, she never sought publicity; but her quiet, Christ-like life made itself felt wherever she went.

"Mrs. Glenny had a strong sense of the stewardship of time and means, and it was her constant joy by acts of daily self-denial to give liberally to those in need. It was her life-long habit to visit the sick, and her unflinching sympathy brought comfort to many lonely hearts. But above all else her complete selflessness and transparent humility were those traits of character which made her influence so consistently uplifting.

"Some might have felt that such a saintly life would have a repressing effect upon others; but this was far from the case. Alert in mind as well as body, with a keen sense of humour and a vivid imagination, she made a joyous and refreshing companion. There are many who can truly say: 'We thank God upon every remembrance of her.'

A Missionary's Appreciation

HAD space been available, many of our senior missionaries would gladly have embraced the opportunity to write in affectionate and grateful memory of dear Mrs. Glenny, and particularly of her friendliness and helpfulness during their early missionary years.

We thought it fitting, however, to invite one of our "veterans," Miss Ethel Turner of Chertchell, to write of those "early days"; and here is her warm tribute:—

"Mrs. E. H. Glenny was a succourer of many; and, amongst these, the missionaries of the N.A.M. have hearts of deep gratitude and love for her.

"When staying, as candidates on probation (and under observation!) at Barking, we experienced her true interest in all that concerned us. She had indeed 'a heart at leisure from itself,' even with all her family, and other activities. She fully shared her husband's desire to secure the best possible equipment and preparation for the 'high calling' of missionary work.

"Like Lydia of Thyatira, she lived 'where prayer was wont to be made,' and both she and her husband knew that only at the Throne of Grace could they obtain wisdom rightly to judge the characters of the men and women who came to their home. This affection and help resulted in creating a *family* relationship which, praise God, remains.

"Later on, when we were stationed in North Africa, Mrs. Glenny constantly corresponded with us, giving us interesting news, as well as assurance of unflinching prayer fellowship.

"Another proof of her sacrificial service was the welcome she gave to missionaries' children at school

in England, who had no relations able to receive them during their holidays. How grateful their parents were, to know that their dear children were cared for by Mrs. Glenny, with whose children they shared the same pleasures and life. Her affectionate influence bears fruit to this day in their lives.

"Space fails to mention many details that come to one's mind, showing how deep was her concern for the spiritual blessing of all with whom she came into contact, particularly her own relations.

"May her life and example constrain us to a like faith; and, like her, may we 'humbly walk with God.'"

Tidings from Our New Workers

Since our four new workers for the Tulloch Memorial Hospital, Tangier, arrived at their destination early in the year, most interesting details have reached us of their impressions and activities.

Dr. Farnham St. John allowed six busy weeks to pass ere he committed himself to "some impressions of the work." From these, we extract the following items:—

"Since our arrival I have been working in the Hospital in the mornings and studying Arabic in the afternoons and evenings. The Hospital was a very pleasant surprise, especially the Out-patient Department, which is very well equipped. The old building has done good work, and we must make the best of it until building is possible after the war. I feel it will not be worth while spending much money on it now. Eventually it will have to be pulled down completely . . .

"**Mr. Bocking** has been a great help with the Arabic, and we shall feel his going very much . . . Everything in Hope House seems to run very smoothly under **Miss Lickman's** control. Hope House is a very pleasant place for a new missionary—almost too pleasant. It was quite a shock to find everything so exactly like home.

"I find **Don Pedro (Mr. P. Padilla)** a great friend and a very faithful shepherd of his Spanish flock . . .

"My first impressions have all been very happy, and I hope I shall prove as faithful a worker as my brethren and sisters out here have been. The evangelistic work is obviously very hard . . . We must be sure that we are really doing the work in His way, and that the methods we are using are His methods."

Here are a few extracts from those who are helping on the nursing staff:—

Miss Gwen Theakston writes: "Externally, Tangier does not look very different. It is good to be back. The people are a bit older: so am I. Rahamoh and Fatma were just married when I left: now they have three children each! Both are definite Christians. Rahamoh is reading with me, and I find her a great help. She needs prayerful backing, for she doesn't find the way easy.

"Another young Christian girl, who helps in the house, was just newly arrived in Miss Glen's school when last I saw her—and she did not look very promising then; but the Lord has done great things for her.

"**Miss Carty** has started on her homeward way, and I have her work—the women's ward. **Miss Hutchinson** is working in the Hospital half days. She has the midwifery. They made T.M.H. history last week by having a 'caesarean'!

"**Miss Chipperfield** arrived about ten days ago. She is enjoying the Out-patient Department. **Miss Henman** is learning the Dispensary work from **Miss Gladwyn**."

And this is how **Miss Margaret Chipperfield** writes: "Here in Tangier we seem to have all we need, and by no means are we starving. True, everything is expensive, but we have very much to praise God for in His bountiful provision.

" It is good to be back into the real work again. The Moorish work of the Hospital seems to be steadily increasing, and we never seem to have sufficient beds for those needing admittance.

" Opportunities are many, and those who come from far hear the Gospel in the Out-patient Department before the Doctor begins his work. Those who come as In-patients of course hear the Word each day. I think they watch the lives of those who minister to them more than they listen to the actual words.

" The enemy is making a butt of some of the Christians. We need to help them all we can by prayer, lest he should gain an advantage over them.

" It is a joy to be working with those who are so out and out for Christ and His Gospel. As a *team* together we are stronger to fight back the forces of evil . . .

" I am wondering if you have seen this little poem on the 'Moslem Woman' :

" Bowed down by sin and man's oppression ;

Blinded by ignorance, by error taught ;

Despised by those for whom she spends her life-strength,

Merely a chattel, and a thing of naught.

' Yea, but for such as her, from realms of glory

The Son of God came down, and bled, and died :

E'en though her mind be dark, ears dull of hearing,

Let not the Gospel be to her denied.' "

And, lastly, from **Miss Madge Hutchinson**, the only one of the three to write as one making her first acquaintance with a strange land and language, come the following interesting lines :

" How much prayer we need for this land, and how grave are the problems that will have to be faced concerning the post-war government of North Africa ! We are much in prayer that the Lord will overrule, and that there will be liberty to preach the Word in those parts of the country that are still closed to the missionary. Oh that many more may be called to go in and 'possess the land' for Him ! He is burdening my heart more and more for this work, and for this I would value your prayers for this preparation time in Tangier, that I may be fully equipped when He shall lead me forward.

" Progress with the language is very slow and difficult, and I long to be able to speak more. The atmosphere here is very English. The only time I hear Arabic is in the Hospital, which claims me from early morning until dinner time. The afternoons and evenings are as far as possible given to study.

" ' A language strange and difficult to learn,

With many subtle variants of tone ;

With curious characters, unruly rules ;

A language that's acquired through prayer alone.

I stumble often as I say the words ;

My teacher thinks right sounds are never reached.

What, then ?—I'll try, and smile, and try again.

I'll persevere, because thus Christ is preached.' "

" . . . There is so much to get to know about these people. The way their minds work—everything seems exactly the opposite to our way of thinking.

" On a Sunday afternoon we have a meeting for the believers ; and although this is all in Arabic, I always go, and find such fellowship with them. Some of the patients from the Hospital, who are able to walk, attend these meetings too.

" The Word is preached daily in the Hospital, and we claim the promise that His Word shall not return unto Him void . . . Many seem interested, and often sing the hymns, and ask us to read His Word to them . . .

" For the Christian Church on the compound we would value your prayers, that they may be strengthened in Him, and that they may realize the need around of those who are backsliding. Oh that they may be drawn back to Him with cords of love ! "

An Epic of Trustfulness

Is missionary work worth while ? The question is surely answered in the following account, just received from our brother **P. Padilla** (Tangier), of the last hours of a Spanish believer, **Antonia**, whom Mr. Padilla describes as " one of our most faithful young women " :—

" Antonia was taken to be with her Lord after a long illness, during which she testified and demonstrated her faith in the Saviour.

" She was a wonderful example to her parents, and to all who came in contact with her. She passed away abounding in hope in her Lord and Saviour. **Amelia**, a very faithful helper, visited her every day to read and pray with her. Two days before she died, Antonia asked her parents to leave her with **Amelia** and myself ; and, being alone, she asked me to pray. We spent some moments in prayer, and she seemed to sleep, her face reflecting the peace of her soul.

" A few minutes passed, and then she opened her eyes, giving us such a sweet smile. I said, ' Antonia, are you at rest ? Do you trust Jesus ? He is faithful ! '

" She answered, ' Yes ! My faith and trust in Him are great.' The next day she said to **Amelia**, ' This life is continual suffering : I shall soon be beyond it all ! ' A little later she said : ' This night I shall be with my Jesus ! '

" And so it was. Her parents and brothers said, ' We wish to respect her faith and her wishes. Will you take the funeral service ? '

" From ninety to a hundred people met in the house for the service, when I had a grand opportunity to give a message concerning the Christian's hope, based on 1 Thessalonians, 4, 13, and quoting Antonia's own last words : ' This night I shall be with my Jesus.' Everyone listened with reverence and interest. For most of them the whole service was a new thing, and the first evangelical burial they had attended. The comments were very favourable ; and the following day the mother said : ' What comfort Don Pedro's words gave me ! '

" On Sunday evening, when I visited the home again, they were very comforted in their loss in the thought of the great peace and trustfulness that had possessed their daughter as she passed on, and of the assurance given by God's Word. I then spoke to them of the great difference between those who have Christ, and those who have not."

Missionary work is surely profoundly worth while, in spite of the many discouragements and the seeming paucity of results. Who shall measure the " joy in the presence of the angels of God over *one* sinner that repenteth " ? or the blessing that may yet accrue to this entire Roman Catholic family when they see such blessed evidence of a Hope that " takes the terror from the grave, and gilds the bed of death with light " ?

Therefore, pray on !

Mr. R. I. Brown

EVENTS are moving so rapidly these days and we are, at the time these Notes are being compiled, so obviously near the end of the European conflict, that our brother, Mr. " **Bobbie** " **Brown**, may well be released from his long term of captivity before these lines appear in print. We earnestly trust so !

Nevertheless, the following extracts from a letter received recently from Miss **Ethel Little** will serve to remind us that our brother stands in constant need of our prayers :—

" Whilst staying at **Letchworth** last week, a letter was forwarded to me giving quite recent news of Mr. **Brown**.

A gentleman, now living in Edinburgh, was repatriated just over a week before Easter. He told of a march through Germany at the end of January lasting eleven days and nights, until Spittal, in Southern Austria, was reached. Here the treatment was rigorous, and the food very bad. Later, however, he and Mr. Brown were transferred to a family camp near Lake Constance. They at once set to work on a curriculum, but before getting very far the writer's health broke down—he is 59 years of age—and he was repatriated.

"He said that when he left the camp Mr. Brown was quite well and happy in the work. No letters or parcels had been received since the late Autumn . . . I feel that his return cannot now be long delayed."

How we praise the Lord for His sustaining mercies!
May our dear brother very soon be back with us again!

News in Brief

SETTAT. "Everything is dried up, and cattle are being sold off cheap because there is no food for them. Wheat that we paid 198 francs for in 1940 was sold at 5,000 francs yesterday in the market, and in Marrakech the price is higher still."—(Miss A. Buxton)

DJEMAA SAHRIDJ. "Out in these country places the situation is becoming worse and worse. Prices get higher every week, and there is nothing to be found. For the past fortnight we have had less than a quarter of a pint of milk per day, and we are eight in the family. Our only fat ration is less than half a pint of olive oil, but we have had none of this even for the past two months. Our bread ration is less than three-quarters of a pound per person per day."—(Miss Marjorie Marsh)

ALGIERS. "Eggs, when we left, were 18s. a dozen, and almost unobtainable. If your half-pound of bread per day was not sufficient, it might be possible to obtain another pound for 10s. Mother and I paid 2s. 6d. a pound for potatoes, and 10s. a pound for meat in February, 4s. for a cauliflower, and 9d. each for oranges—the only fruit. We had only one turn at market a week, and ours was on Sunday. We had no milk for years. Our coffee was 20 per cent. genuine coffee, and the remainder roasted ground date stones, apricot stones, chick-peas, acorns and lentils. *The bread, too, was made of eight different things, including acorns and beans.*"—(Miss Margaret Ross, now in the Homeland)

In the midst of much that, on the spiritual plane, is gratifying and cheering, these fragments of "domestic" news, culled from letters reaching us from scattered parts of the field, serve to underline the perpetual need of earnest prayer in the Homeland that the Lord may graciously alleviate the physical hardship in North Africa. If the Lord's missionary children are living from day to day upon such scanty resources, it is not difficult to imagine the sorry plight of the vast native populations.

NABEUL. In a most interesting letter that describes, in graphic language, the missionary activities of the station, Miss Ada Clack writes (as though it were just an incident): "There are also the odd women, girls and young men (Arabs, French and Jews) who call in during the week. One day we counted 13 visits to us, and each one had a word given them from the Lord."

The ministry of the Mission House in a small place like Nabeul is an incalculable blessing.

Miss Clack also writes of the food shortage; but the industrious and capable Miss Jones "has got the garden under way . . . and made a chicken house; and we have three hens, one sitting! The other two lay each day: eggs otherwise being 10s. a dozen."

Wanted

Should any readers of the NEWS LETTER have copies of "The Gospel in North Africa" or "A Budget from Barbary" that they no longer require, the Editor would be grateful if they could be forwarded to Headquarters (23, Thornton Way, London, N.W.11). Postage will gladly be refunded.

We have received several enquiries for copies of "A Budget from Barbary." They are desired for men in the Forces whose thoughts are turning towards North Africa as a possible field for post-war service.

Apart from two or three copies that we feel it wise to retain for Office use, supplies of Miss Tinning's excellent book are entirely exhausted.

The Annual Meetings

With so many of our Missionaries now safely back in the Homeland after spending the War years in North Africa, the forthcoming Annual Meetings will be of special interest.

Among the more recent arrivals who will be taking part, either at the afternoon or evening gatherings, are the Field Superintendent, Mr. T. Warren, Mr. L. Bocking (Tangier), Miss Carty and Miss Drury (Tangier), Miss Bradbury (Tetuan), and Miss M. Ross (Algiers). Mrs. Simpson of Guercif completes the list of missionary speakers.

The Meetings are to be held, God willing, on Thursday, May 31st, at 3.30 (Prayer Meeting at 3) and 6.30 in the Livingstone Hall, Westminster, S.W.1.

The Chairman at the Afternoon meeting will be Mr. E. T. Morriss, and the closing speaker the Rev. R. S. Eddleston, M.A., of Surbiton.

At the Evening gathering, at which the Rev. S. J. Henman will preside, the Rev. John Pritchard will be the concluding speaker.

We earnestly trust that our friends in the London area will make every endeavour to give us the pleasure of meeting them again at this rendezvous!

Deputation Work of Mr. R. Stanley Miles

Mr. Miles is greatly encouraged by the warm-hearted sympathy and interest manifested by the many friends whom he has visited during recent months, and now, after a brief rest at home in Norwich, he will value continued prayer for physical, mental and spiritual strength for his many engagements. In the first part of May he has addressed meetings at Southend, Ilford, Chingford, Hitchin, and Barking. On the 29th May he is due in London for Nile Mission Press annual meeting, and N.A.M. gatherings on 31st. Future engagements include the Scripture Gift Mission at Eccleston Hall on June 5th; Bignold Hall, Forest Gate, on 7th; Slavanka Conference, 9th-12th; Hayling Island, 14th; and Worthing (St. James's Free Church) on the 17th.

Homecall of Mrs. T. G. Churcher

EVEN as we post this material, news reaches us of the Homecall of Mrs. T. G. Churcher, whose association with her Doctor husband in the work of the N.A.M. extends back very many years into the last century.

In our next issue, God willing, fuller particulars will be furnished. Meanwhile we would express, to Dr. Churcher and his family, our deepest sympathy.