

Trisoli. Oct. 12. 1872

W. L. Belden.

Corresponding Secretary. N. S. M.
Bridgeton. N. J.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of Aug 1st was received some time since, and I intended writing you at once. I trust that you will pardon my seeming neglect as when your letter reached me, I was just about starting upon an extended tour in the Southern part of our Mission, hence, the delay.

It rejoices our hearts that the dear people in the home Land are so interested in Foreign Missions, that their united prayers are continually rising to the hearer and answerer of prayer in behalf of those who sit in darkness in heathen lands. that the Sun

of Righteousness may arise and shine abroad, to the enlightening of these souls for whom Christ died. May God grant a mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit may follow this simultaneous week, such as has never before been known.

We, as a Station, shall earnestly unite with you in prayer, on the days of your meetings.

My work as a Medical Missionary is among all sects - but as the Moslems are the most numerous I have been brought more in contact with them than others - They come to me with their poor bodies racked with pain by disease, their spirits humbled, and if there is any time when they are ready to accept the Gospel teachings it is then.

At all times we endeavor to speak to them about Jesus, in such a way that their superstition and bigotry is not aroused, and gradually try to bring them to the knowledge of the Truth.

They are very susceptible to kind-

ness shown them - especially when sick. They have sometimes made a confidant of me - saying they were not satisfied with the religion of Mohammed, knowing that I would not reveal the fact to their friends and they inform their religious head, who would surely persecute them. To illustrate what he would do.

Some time ago, a man was sent to us requesting that three Moslems be allowed to attend our prayer meetings. (In this country there is such a prejudice between members of rival sects, ^{to send and ask permission} that such a request is unusual.)

We gladly gave our consent; they came, and we were very much pleased with their attention and behavior; They seemed thoroughly in earnest; They attended regularly for several weeks, also calling upon the members of the Station to talk upon religious topics. We were very much encouraged to learn that they were much in earnest about their souls salvation. They said

denly ceased attendance upon our meetings. Some time after, one of our teachers met one of the men upon the street, and in reply to a question as to the cause, said that some one had reported them to the the religious head of the Moslem sect, (who is a Law unto himself, in this land, and holds all to a strict accountability for a faithful performance of all the commands of Mohammed) who ordered them to appear before him. They were forced to obey - fearfully - for they knew for what they were called. He rebuked them severely for associating with the accused Christians and ordered them to be imprisoned, where they were kept for two weeks, not knowing when they would be liberated. Their friends worked zealously with the Sheikh, to have him state the term of the imprisonment, for they knew if he did not, they would be kept on indefinitely. He finally said if some one would go their security for 100 £ that they would never enter

the American Church, or speak to
any American connected with the
Mission. He would liberate them
but if they violated the agreement
he would collect the money and
send the men to a place where their
friends would never see or hear from
them again. You see it would be
martyrdom to disobey the commands
of such a despotic power. But
although this power can prevent
any outward action, thank God
it cannot know or prevent a secret
communing with our Savior.

I know of a few who do hold family
worship for prayer and reading
the Bible. A teacher in the Trocien
girls school in Tripoli, a graduate
of Miss Taylors school for Trocien
girls in Beirut, although outwardly
a Trocien, we believe that she is
truly a Christian. In an ^{quiet} ~~unobtrusive~~
way she is teaching the children
under her charge to believe in
Christ, but is very careful not to
arouse suspicions that she is any

thing but a Moslem, or she would be dismissed at once. Through her influence, her parents and brother have become enlightened, and are secretly living Christian lives.

The Father came to Mr March and said his son wished to unite with our Church, requesting that we would protect him from the Gov't if he did so. As we have no political power ^{in this country}, we could not protect him, we advised him to go to Egypt and join a Protestant Church, as there he would be under the protection of the English Gov't. This he is thinking of doing. I am distributing the Gospel of Matthew to my Moslem patients. It is small and can be quickly placed out of sight, so if they wish they can keep the fact that they had the scriptures a secret and the priests of their mosque ^{would} be informed. The Government has drafted many men and youths into the army and their families left without support - the Gov't has not provided

for them, so they must get a living as best they can. Many are weak and ill from want of proper food.

Many come to the Mission Dispensary for treatment and medicine, and we try to improve every opportunity to speak a word for the Master.

There is a Moslem who years ago was in Mission employ, and was on the point once of becoming a member of our Church, but fear of persecution deterred him. However he did the next best thing, he has saved a small property - by living simply he can devote his whole time to doing good. He has the reputation among his sect of great piety, because he can repeat the whole Koran from memory, and sits in his little shop for hours reading religious books. He has a Bible, and he will collect a number of men together for religious conversation, and he will read a few chapters in the Koran, that

especially mention Jesus. Then take the Bible and read and compare. He does it in such a way that they will not suspect his object until they are gradually brought to realize the truth. When he finds a man who is very much interested in the reading of the Scriptures he will advise him to get a Bible and take it home and read it in connection with the Koran, assuring him that it will be a great help in understanding the teachings of that book.

They have taken his advice and are reading it quietly, in nearly every case the Bible is the one oftenest read. So this man is perhaps doing a greater work for the Master than if he were openly a believer.

I have been often touched by his kindness of heart. He often attends my clinics, bringing some poor patients carrying them on his back because they have no money to hire a porter or animal

In some instances he does not know who they are. When we see such evidence of kindness of heart in this land of selfishness and oppression we are impelled to say "this person has Christ in his heart."

During the early Summer I visited some of the large villages in the Muscovite country. They are a people who are very ready to listen to the Word, but such is the attitude of the Gov't, we find it very difficult to work among them. Any thing like openly preaching the Gospel would not be tolerated for a moment. I go as a physician and work in such a way as not to arouse the Gov't against me. When the time shall come that this country is governed by a Christian power or the present^{er} permit free religious teaching, there will be such a turning to Christ as this land has not witnessed since the days of the apostles. During a recent tour with Mr Eddy of the Sidon field, on our riding

through a Bruze district, and met
two men of this sect. After we had
passed them - and gone some distance
one ran and overtook us. He said to
Mr Eddy. Do you remember a conver-
sation you had with a friend and my-
self five years ago - you had visited
the ruins of a Temple near here. We
thought you were looking for treasure
and we asked if this was your business
you replied no. but you were searching
for souls, which are the treasures of
Christ. that every man can lay up
treasures in heaven, which he may enjoy
after death. You told us we must be good
and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and
we will have treasures in our hearts.

Mr Eddy had quite forgotten the con-
versation until he was reminded of
it, then he remembered it quite well.
I was very much impressed with
this incident. for this man evidently
had thought of these ^{words of truth} many times and what
like had undoubtedly repeated them
many times. for he was too simple and

uneducated to have a conversation of
five years before suddenly brought
to mind by seeing Mr Eddy riding
along. This incident will teach us that
we do not know how far reaching our
words may be, especially on religious
things. On another occasion I was
travelling on mission business, we
had two muleteers - Church members

We overtook a man going our way.
He gave the usual Oriental greeting -
asked if we had anything to sell.
"No - quickly answered one of the men,
but we have something we will give
you without money and without price
The word of God - The salvation of
The Lord Jesus Christ." Then he
proceeded in his simple language
to tell him the story of the Cross.

The man was a Goshem and he
was very much interested in what
he heard. We shall know at the last
day if it had any effect.

I could write many incidents - when
simple men have used like opportu-
nity to talk of Jesus.

If you deem what I have written
worthy of publication in your
tract. The only restriction I make
is that you do not mention that
the Moslems I spoke of live in
Tripoli. May the good Lord
assist you in all your labors for
His name and cause in the world.

Very sincerely yours -
Ira Harris.