

Independent Republican.

"FREEDOM AND RIGHT AGAINST SLAVERY AND WRONG."

C. F. READ & H. H. FRAZIER, EDITORS.

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COME DWELL WITH ME.

Come dwell with me beneath the sea,
Where the waves never cease to curl,
I'll deck my ocean cave for thee
With shells and orient pearl.
For thee I'll strike the silver chords,
And thou shalt hear a tone—
A melody of lute and words,
To mortal ears unknown.
Come dwell with me beneath the sea,
And quit the lonely shore,
Lighly Time's wing shall pass o'er thee,
And all thy hours be o'er.
And should thy spirit pine to greet
Once more the dull, dull land,
We'll seek some isle where fairy feet
Dance on the moonlit strand.

LETTER FROM REV. H. H. JESSUP.

Tripoli, Syria, May 11th, 1858.

My dear Father—It is now nearly three months since we bade you all farewell. We have crossed the sea in safety, and its discomforts and perils are well nigh forgotten. We are becoming so accustomed to Syrian life that dress, and manners, and language, hardly awaken ordinary curiosity. I should not speak quite so strongly, however, of language, as the Arabic is unquestionably a matter of curious investigation to us both, and we stay in this land. Yet we begin to get at home. Tripoli looks familiar enough to me, and C. daily recognizes features in the city itself and the surrounding scenery of which she has heard or read before. When I cast my eye around my room, it seems so very natural that I can hardly believe that I have been away to America, and my journalizing tonight seems but a continuation of my usual letters. Today we have sent my usual mail to America, and I must begin to prepare for the next a fortnight hence.

It is now the month of Ramadan, and the Moslems are unusually zealous in their religious acts. You may remember my making the remark that so low are Moslem ideas of practical morality, that the worst men of all are their saints or holy men. Today, one of their holy men was walking the streets of Tripoli in his naked, not having a rag of clothing on his body. His language and conduct were such as would brand a man with infamy forever in America. But here the Moslems flunked around, kissed his hand, and offered him gifts. He does not venture to come to this part of the city. This afternoon we were glad to welcome to our house Mr. S. Williams of Uta, N. Y. State. He is traveling in a contented and happy mood from Beirut, Damascus, and Hama. He found very deep snow on the summit of Mt. Lebanon near the cedars, and had some difficulty in getting through. We were glad to receive him, as he was a college classmate of Samuel. He knows Mr. Clark and Mr. Woolworth, and many of our N. Y. State friends. As he has been absent from America more than a year, I had news for him, and he told me some very interesting news. He is now a great hunter for him, and the more so as he is editor of a newspaper, the *Utica Daily Morning Herald*. He saw Mr. Bliss in Jerusalem. Mr. B. was attacked by Arabs just south of Nazareth, but escaped by turning his horse. The whole country about Jerusalem is overrun with plundering Arabs. No wonder, when the Pasha receives bribes from both parties in an Arab quarrel, and favors the victor, and the victor is a Pasha. The Turkish Pashas are about as corrupt a race of men as can be found on earth. The most common remark about a Pasha is, that "he drinks in bribes like water."

Wednesday, May 12th.—Our consul, Yanni, called this morning upon Mr. Williams, and we spent some time in conversation with him. He invited us all to accompany Mr. W. to a walk through the city, in order to see the sights usual toward the close of the great Ramadan. I have been busy in studying Arabic until towards evening, when we all walked out with Mr. W. to the convent of the Derwiches. Yanni told us of a tree hours' conversation or discussion which he had held with Isaac Nahas (or Isaac Copper) on the corruptions and errors of the Greek Church. It was in the hands of the Moslems, and about fifty people were present, the most of them trying to drown Yanni's voice by loud shouting and denunciations. Yanni is always busy, and such discussions can do only good, for no one can hear Yanni's vindication of the truth without receiving light. We are glad to have discussion, for it elicits truth, and anything is better than a dead calm. Our daily life here in Tripoli, is generally a series of discussions from morning until night, as the people are conversing in a way all praying together, repeating their prayers, and bowing in unison. It was quite an imposing spectacle. Letters have come today from Mr. Wilson in Hama. The whole city is in an uproar. Several young men who have called upon Mr. Wilson and are seeking the truth, have been bitterly persecuted, and the lately Greek Bishop who is drunk one half of the time, knocked one of them down with his cane. Mr. Wilson has got an order to have the Bishop brought before the Medjlis or city court, but bribery and corruption are so common that he has little expectation that justice will be done. The stir in the city, however, will do good, as it brings the truth before the minds of the people, and may well bear of the missionary who could not hear in any other way. Those young men will be strengthened, I doubt not, by the opposition of wicked men. Mrs. Wilson and tonight, as she read the letter, that she heard that violence would be done to her husband, as the enemies of the truth in Hama are bitter and unscrupulous.

Thursday, May 13.—This morning Yanni called and offered to go to Hama with his Casseres (or armed servants) to assist Mr. Wilson. The Greek Bishop in Hama is the most wicked man in the city, and he is a traitor of the evil one. We advised Yanni to write first to Mr. W., and if he wishes, to go at once to his assistance. Yanni is anxious to do all in his power to help on the truth, and seems willing to sacrifice every personal interest for the cause of Christ. His noble spirit is truly encouraging to us. As I am to preach in Arabic about a fortnight, I am hard at work studying Arabic. C. has Elias for two hours every morning, and studies faithfully. The Arabic language is so extensive and copious that I begin to feel that I know little or nothing about it. Yet I am thankful that I am in so favorable a place for learning the language, for there is no place in Syria where there is more access to the people who have the language. The two villages Edden and B Sherry, it is reported that a hundred men were killed last night; but we never believe a story here until it is confirmed by several witnesses, and considerable time has elapsed. As to-day is the last day of Ramadan, the Moslems are looking more cheerful. In one sense there is no fast of thirty days is no fast. They spend the whole night in feasting, and sleep until day. But the laboring classes who are obliged to work, find it more burdensome. This afternoon Lorenzo and I called on Mr. Blanche, the French consul, and upon Mr. Berand, the agent of the French steam mail service. Mr. Blanche is quite a scientific man, and the French Government has published several of his contributions to the Botany and Natural History of Syria. Towards evening, Corrie, Sada, Shehadan, Elias, Mr. Williams and I rode out to the fields, and the corries of the Sacred Fish. As it was just before sunset, the air was fine, and the odor of the fields of wheat along the roadside was like the sweet air of a harvest field at home. The wheat here will be ready to cut in about a fortnight. I saw the wheat and tares growing together. When we reached the mosque, which is about two miles from Tripoli on the road to Hama, we dismounted and sat down by the stone wall to watch the fish. When we threw in crumbs of bread, hundreds of the fishes came leaping and plunging through the water until the water was black with them. Several old Moslems, white-turbaned and white-bearded, sat near the water, evidently looking for sunset, when they might slake their thirst; and I asked them about the fish and the "birds" or pool in which they live. He said the pool is more than seven hundred years old, and the fish are sacred. It is said that one of these fish and one of the birds would surely die, as five hundred soldiers who ate of them in the time of Ibrahim Pasha, all died of the small pox afterwards. I smiled, but did not tell him that I myself had eaten of these very fish; and never felt the worse for it. The old man said that there is one black fish, the Sheikh of the birka, who does not often show himself to spectators.

When we were ready to return, I saw the rest all in their saddles, and was just mounting my own horse, when he sprang backwards and threw me to the ground. I had my left foot in the stirrup, and my right foot was nearly over his back when he sprang, so that I could not save myself. Providentially my foot struck out of the stirrup at once, and I struck on my arm, so that I was not injured more than a light scratch on the left side of my head, and a bruise on the right side of my head, and had no more trouble. On our return, Mr. Williams said that if he had not seen one view above Damascus, he should declare the scenery about Tripoli to be the finest he had seen in all the East. Mr. W. is intending to take the Austrian steamer in the morning for Smyrna, and thence to Southern Europe. He expects to reach America in November. For some days past we have been wondering what has become of our friend Elias, who has been in Baghdad who called upon us some time since. We fear that he has been taken away by the Jesuits to Paris, against his own will.

Friday, May 14.—The Austrian steamer was at anchor in the harbor when we went on the terrace this morning before breakfast; just about one hour later it was nearly out of sight, so that Mr. Williams is obliged to remain over until the Sabbath, when the French steamer comes from Beirut. To-day is the first day of the Moslem fast, as the fast of Ramadan terminated yesterday. I went in company with Yanni and Mr. Williams to call on the Governor and the Commanding officer of the Turkish military stationed here. The Governor was polite as usual, but he is so weak, profligate, and corrupt, that I have not the least respect for him. He is a polygamist, and actually does not know or care to know the number of his children. He takes bribes whenever he can get them, and often takes money from both sides of the contending parties. On one side of the room in which he received us, sat the Governor's *zester*, whose business it is to amuse the Governor. It is the first time I have heard of this custom in Syria. The *Bim Pasha*, who commands the soldiers here, much more of a man than the Governor. He has more of real courtesy than I have found among any of the rulers of Tripoli. He remarked in reply to a question of mine, that there is now perfect religious liberty in this Empire. Moslems may change their faith if they wish, without hindrance. This is an interesting statement for us, when several of the Tripoli Moslems are daily calling upon us, and reading the gospel. This military officer has had a very interesting history. He was born in Greece, and was stolen by the Turks when a child and carried to Constantinople, where he was made a Moslem. A brother of his who escaped from the Turks, is now one of the wealthiest merchants of Athens, and is here on a visit. We saw him and conversed with him. One of his objects in coming here is to endeavor to bring his Moslem brother back to the Greek Church, but we have heard that the Moslem curses the Greek Church as an idolatrous church which encourages the worship of pictures and saints. If he knew Arabic, I should endeavor to tell him of a form of Christianity which condemns idolatry as strongly as the Moslem does, and has the purest morality in the world, but he speaks and reads only Turkish, and we have no Turkish books. I have walked in Yanni's garden with Mr. W., to-day, and everything looks well. This afternoon I have been studying Mr. Deane's photographic instructions.

Saturday, May 15.—I have tried my photographic apparatus today with very good

success. The ambrotype process is much easier than that on waxed paper, and I have satisfied myself that I can do all the work of this kind that the missionaries and their families may wish, when I attend the next annual meeting. Yanni sent us all an invitation to dine with him in honor of Mr. Williams. We spent about two hours very pleasantly. Yanni is always delighted to entertain American travelers, and his politeness has the charm of being real and heartfelt. We are now putting forth every effort to secure a suitable house for a church. The population of Tripoli is so crowded, and good houses so scarce, that we cannot expect to find a good building for a church without paying a large sum of money. We have a place in view, but Malouk law is so crooked that we are almost worn out with vexation in trying to make a bargain. I will give you the particulars as we progress in the negotiation.

Sabbath, May 16.—This has been an interesting day. There was a hard rain in the night, and the air was cool and refreshing. Lorenzo went down to the Meena to preach in the forenoon, and Mr. Williams went with him to embark on the steamer. In Lorenzo's absence we had several calls, and my time was taken up in talking with the young men. The number present at our afternoon service was so large that we were obliged to adjourn. Lorenzo preached on the necessity of a change of heart. Our service was at the hour of the late afternoon prayer of the Moslems, yet our Moslem friend Saleh was present, and paid better attention than any other person. What the Lord has in store for him I know not; but he is certainly seeking after the truth with apparent earnestness. At the close of the service several remarks were made, and then we returned to our rooms. Lorenzo preached on the necessity of a change of heart. 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