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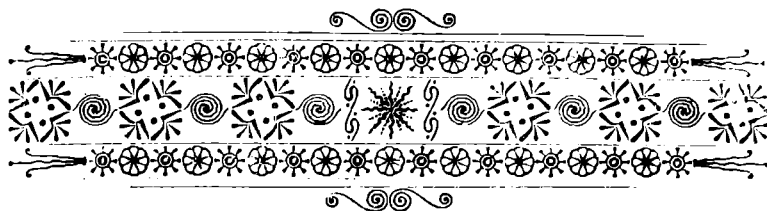
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THE
Sword and the Trowel.

JANUARY, 1899.

Garnestness !

AN ADDRESS TO THE MISSIONARIES OF THE LONDON CITY MISSION, AT THE
DEVOTIONAL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY MORNING, JANUARY 1ST, 1861,

BY C. H. SPURGEON.

FORWARDED BY T. W. MEDHURST, CARDIFF.



Y brethren in the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ, partakers with us in the fellowship of His sufferings, you will suffer the word of exhortation from me this morning, I am sure; and may God the Holy Spirit make it quick and powerful to all our souls, that throughout the coming year we may serve our Master with both our hands, and with all our heart, having the whole of our manhood anointed by the Holy Ghost, and laid as a whole burnt-offering upon the altar of our God !

I think it right to say, before coming to the topic of this morning, that I am sure the Church of God loves you, and has deep sympathy with you. I think I speak the feelings of all who know your office and its trials when I say, in the name of the Church of the Living God, we thank you, and wish you Godspeed. Little can we tell what London would have been without you. If a great moral change has passed over it,—and I am sure there has,—it is owing doubtless to the Christian ministry, but equally as much to your untiring labours from house to house. I scarcely dare to draw a picture of what London would have been without the London City Mission. I am quite certain that, had it not been for this instrumentality, our

A Street Scene in Kairouan.



WHEN speaking of the vision to the prophet Habakkuk (chap. ii. 2), the Lord said:—"Write..., make it plain..., that he may run that readeth it;"—**NOR** that he who runs may read, *but* that he who reads may run,—that the message, entering by the eye, may reach the mind, and move the whole man to action. I would that such might be the case with this picture of *Rue Saussier, Kairouan*.

I stood at the end of this street, lately, as day was breaking, and listened to the Moslem crier as he welcomed the light. His voice rang out sweetly on the still air:—"God is great! Praise God! Worship God!" The

words are true and beautiful, but contrast sadly with the sins of the people. For instance, amid a crowd of men, we were trying to drive home the need all have of a Saviour, when one of them spoke up, and asserted that he was absolutely sinless, he had never committed even *one* sin, and his heart was as white as milk. Nothing could move him from this declaration, but when he came in to be treated, behold, he was fresh from gross sin! Then the rest laughed at him, but no one seemed shocked either at his lying or his immorality. Quite recently, a woman proclaimed her absolute sinlessness and purity; and the next minute, thrusting her hands through her thick tresses, she confessed that the lies she told were as many as the hairs of her head. "God makes us sin," shouted a man; "it is written on our foreheads, and we *must*."

The Medical Mission (where we have had over 800 visits during the month) holds aloft the gospel light, but the moral shadows are deep around us, even as are the physical shadows in the picture. Indeed, in every Moslem, his whole mental and spiritual nature seems dislocated. Let me illustrate this by one of my patients. Here he sits, nursing his injured arm, which hangs powerless by his side, and the deformed shoulder tells its tale of a fall. Both he and his friends are helpless to do anything; yet, rightly understood, how simple the remedy,—a steady drawing away of the arm from its wrong position, a gentle turn, the bone slips into its *right* place, and all is well. So, spiritually, Moslems are fallen men,—ignorant alike of the Written and the Living Word of God,—forcibly drawn by precept and example to the Koran and Mohammed,—a wrong direction indeed. Who, then, in this New Year will join us in our efforts to draw them from the wrong, and turn them unto the true God, and Jesus Christ whom He hath sent?

Look, dear friend, once again at the picture, and notice those boys gazing so earnestly towards you. Cannot you almost hear them say, "Come over into North Africa, and help us"? When the Lord asks, "Who will go for us, and whom shall I send?" let your answer be, "Here am I, send *me*."

Sousse, Tunisia, North Africa.

T. G. CHURCHER.

Rebuilding the Metropolitan Tabernacle.

ON Monday evening, December 19, the male members again met in the College Conference Hall, under the presidency of Pastor Thomas Spurgeon, to receive a further report from the Rebuilding Committee. The first item was the announcement that the LARGE NEW HALL would (D.V.) be opened for Divine service on January 1, 1899, thus providing accommodation for nearly 2,000 worshippers. The seven tenders for the large structure ranged from £36,399 to £33,240, the last-named being from Messrs. Higgs & Hill, Limited. The amount being so much higher than the Committee expected, they reduced it to £32,550. The mention of the firm that had sent the lowest tender was received with loud and long-continued applause, which was renewed at the following clause:—"They make no secret of the intense satisfaction they feel at the prospect of the whole of the rebuilding being carried out under the personal supervision of Mr. Wm. Higgs, whose devotion to the Church is only equalled by that of his late respected father, who built the original Metropolitan Tabernacle."

The adoption of the report was moved by the Pastor, seconded by Deacon Frank Thompson, and without any discussion was *carried unanimously*. The whole scheme, including this contract for £32,550, will cost £44,576 14s. After allowing for the amount received for insurance, and the contributions to date, *there will still be required* £16,000. The raising of this large sum will necessitate great generosity on the part of the Tabernacle Church and congregation, and their friends and sympathizers throughout the whole world. All donations should be addressed to Pastor Thomas Spurgeon, Metropolitan Tabernacle, Newington Butts, London, S.E.