

# ON THE TRAIL OF THE AMERICAN MISSIONARY

By WILLIAM T. ELLIS

This Distinguished American Journalist is Traveling Around the World for the Purpose of Investigating the American Foreign Missionary from a Purely Disinterested, Secular and Non-Sectarian Standpoint. Illustrated with Drawings and from Photographs.

## Mohammed's Forces Center in Cosmopolitan Cairo

Cairo, Egypt.—Japan, China, Korea and India have all got on the world's news cables since I wrote about them in this correspondence; the same will be true of Egypt, or I am no reader of plain signs. The unrest of Egypt is bound to assert itself ere long in ways that will command the attention of civilization. The loud utterings, to be heard in the cafes and bazars, are not the thoughtless vapors of the idle; a very considerable proportion of the people, including the progressive, educated "Young Egypt" party, are thinking definite things concerning the overthrow of the English power. Lord Cromer's recent departure was made the occasion for so many outspoken criticisms against the British that it was preceded, as a precautionary measure, by the parade of all the British forces, fully armed, through the streets of Cairo.

**Missions and Politics.**  
All this has a relation to the missionary propaganda. This upheaval and restlessness is cracking the hard surface of Mohammedan exclusiveness and intolerance. Where the newspaper and the world's spirit enter, there religious prejudice cannot abide. In their seemingly hopeless assault upon Islam, the missionaries have a powerful reinforcement in the fledgling modernity of New Egypt.

On the other hand, the missionaries, by their schools and literature, have done more than a little to awaken Egypt from the torpor of centuries. British officials and Egyptian reformers have alike definitely and publicly acknowledged the influential contribution to the country's higher welfare made by the American missionary. Old Egypt, the land of the dead, is becoming one of the world's new nations, blessed with a prosperity almost equal to the amazing fertility of its soil.

**The Sword of the Prophet.**  
Cairo is the citadel and cradle of Mohammedanism. Sanguine Christians predict that, as the magnificent Mohammed Ali mosque, which overlooks the entire city, from the summit of the ancient citadel, is now surrounded by the soldiers of a Christian power, so the religion which it represents is bound to succumb to the advance of Christianity. Which is more easily said than done. This is a thoroughly Mohammedan city. The Christian may still hear himself cursed as an unbelieving dog, in the bazars and in the mosques.

What has often been called the largest university in the world, the highest educational institution of Islam is situated here; and when I visited it the sibilant sound of serpentine hate followed me through all the vast inclosures. The books say that there are 10,000 students taking the 12-year course in the El Azhar mosque, although the officials told me that the number is more than 14,000. This is now the fountain head of the force by which Mohammedanism has conquered 232,966,170 of the world's population. The only reason that this force is no longer expressed by the sword, as formerly, is that the great world powers, which are Christians, prevent. Curiously enough, the Christian emperor of Great Britain and India rules over more Mohammedans than any other sovereign. In Egypt there are about 9,000,000 followers of Islam, 720,000 Coptic Christians, and a small scattering of Jews and Protestants.

**Studying, Eating, Sleeping in Church.**  
This Azhar mosque is like only itself. The students, who have come from every part of the Mohammedan world, do not study occidental fashion, in classes and under teachers. I could find no traces of organization whatever. The students—all men, of course, sat, reclined or lay about the floors in nondescript fashion. Occasionally a cluster would have their heads together, swaying to and fro, and repeating some passages aloud and in unison. There were no modern books in evidence whatever. Indeed, this "university" is really a school of theology; it will have nothing to do with the modern sciences or scientific learning. What other universities teach it eschews; and its branches of study would be looked for in vahn in any college in Christendom. A man may graduate from the Azhar, and yet be unable to pass an examination in the studies required for admission to an English grammar school. But they know the Koran, and are ready to die for the faith of the prophet.

The mosque is also a lodging house. The students sleep where they study, and apparently they sleep and study when they please. Likewise, they eat where they sleep, after the primitive style of the east. The passing of the occasional tourist arouses sufficient interest to set the students to hissing; but I was more disturbed by the vermin of the place than by these hostile demonstrations, knowing that there is no real danger, since Britain rules with a strong hand.

**Ungratefulness of "The Faithful."**  
The famous "howling Dervishes" of Cairo are no longer to be seen by visitors, because of "fanatical" out-

breaks, and because of the disgusting character of their exhibition. The great flood of tourists in Cairo makes itself felt in this respect, being one of the influences that, imperceptibly, undermine the solidarity of Islam.

My dragoman threw a side light on religious conditions. He assured me that he is a faithful follower of the prophet, keeps the fast of Ramadan, and observes the early prayers—although in our days together I failed to catch him at these. We were rocking across the desert on camels, when in his terse fashion he gave utterance to what is the practical infidelity of many Moslems. "Priests say all Christians go to hell and all Mohammedans go to heaven. I do not believe it. You think good man who has only one face and makes straight talk and gives to the poor, will go to hell because he is a Christian? I do not. You think bad man, who lies, shows two faces and does many wrong things, go to heaven because he is a Mohammedan? I do not. Bad man go to hell; good man go to heaven; do not care what priests say."

Not only the advent of the western spirit, but also the immorality of its followers is weakening Mohammedanism. Cairo is probably the wickedest city in the world, not even Port Said surpassing it. The position of women is indicated by the statement on the part of a Moslem authority, that not five per cent. of the Mohammedan men retain their first wife until death. Divorce is as common as it is easy. The men are grossly and, naturally, immoral. They drink large quantities of liquor despite the prohibitions of the prophet. Only eight per cent. of the population can read and write. The people are sullen and ingenious mendicants. Their religion, which should be intense Mohammedanism, has degenerated into all sorts of superstitions.

**A Fat Man's Misery.**  
Thus, at the entrance to the mosque which is a duplicate of the Mecca mosque, there stand two marble pillars. The belief is that whoever can squeeze between these two pillars is free from evil and sure of paradise. But the person in whose heart evil resides can in no wise get through. Physical form is not taken into account. Our driver was terribly concerned because he could not squeeze through, even after removing various garments. After much effort, and at the risk of ribs, we pulled and pushed him through; and he was straightway as happy as a peasant girl after her confirmation.

**No "Holy War."**  
Frequently the alarm is sounded that a pan-Islamic movement threatens Europe or Asia, and that the green flag of a "holy war" is to be unfurled. Undoubtedly the leaders of Islam are solidifying their forces as thoroughly as possible; and undoubtedly Mohammedanism is the most serious foe to be met by the Christian missionaries. The report, however, that Islam is growing rapidly, and carrying on an aggressive missionary campaign, cannot be verified here. Leading students of Mohammedanism say that they can find no evidence of such a movement. It is as unfounded a report as the rumors of a "holy war." With the present admixture of races and governments and civilizations, it seems the height of improbability that there should ever be a "holy war." The prophet is fighting against the calendar.

None the less, Islam makes it warm for all apostates. Ostracism and persecution—loss of home, friend, social position and means of earning a livelihood—follow the Mohammedan who becomes a Christian. It is frequently asserted that there never has been a genuine convert from Mohammedanism to Christianity. The American mission alone has detailed records of 140 such, as a result of its work since 1854. Not a very large company, it is true, but enough to prove the possibility of wide success.

**Sapping and Mining.**  
Like many other oriental missions, this one of the United Presbyterian church is working for the second and third generation. It plans a long, wide and far-reaching campaign. By many indirect methods, it is inculcating a more tolerant spirit in the community, and removing the ancient prejudice. It is educating the boys and girls, on a scale almost equal to that of the reformed government itself. A recent report showed 15,000 scholars in the schools of this American mission, and 18,000 in all government schools. There are more than 16,000 scholars in the mission schools, of whom about 3,000 are Mohammedans.

The ancient Coptic Christian church, now sadly corrupted, has persisted in Egypt despite all Moslem persecution. Among these the first work of the missionaries was done, and from them come the majority of the 8,639 members reported by the mission. The latter, by the way, has 107 American missionaries, supported by the most aggressively missionary

of all denominations in the west, the United Presbyterians.

**Where the Holy Family Rested.**  
The Coptic quarter of old Cairo does not speak well for the thrift and progressiveness of the Coptic. My dragoman gave them a bad reputation for morality. The old church, dating back to the fifteenth century, which covers the crypt where Joseph and Mary rested with the babe in their flight into Egypt, is in sorry disrepair. The priest and his family, who show tourists about are as shameless beggars as any Arab, and quite as arrogant. The priest soberly gave me, as the names of apostles whose pictures are on the wall, a medley of New Testament characters, some of whom no church ever called apostles. The association of the old church building with the holy family renders it one of the chief points of interest in this interesting city.

It is at Cairo that the west touches the east; here most travelers get their first sight of foreign mission work. The old American mission building is directly across the street from the principal hotel, and here reside veteran missionaries who have been in the work for nearly half a century, as well as a fine corps of younger workers. Here is a church, a book store, and schools for both girls and boys.

By the Nile the mission has even greater work. Assuit college enrolls 700 students, and the hospitals at Assuit and Tanta minister respectively to 2,000 and to 200 in-patients annually, and to 20,000 and 10,000 dispensary patients. The praise of this mission's work is in the mouths of natives, travelers and government officials.

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### ENTIRE STATE WAS IN PAWN.

Nevada Said to Have Been in That Condition Five Years Back.

Five years ago Nevada was a state in pawn. She had been stolen. The entire population was not sufficient to constitute a third-rate western town, and it was decreasing. It might well have been asked them: "What's the matter with Nevada?"

The trouble grew out of Nevada's public land grant, amounting to 2,000,000 acres, which congress had carelessly authorized the state to select as desired. The Nevada legislature practically put the land up at auction, and the result was that a few stockmen bought enough land to shoestring and surround and absolutely control every river, lake and water hole in the state.

By doing so they became virtual possessors of the rest of the state. No one else could use the public land or make settlement because of their control of all the water, and in Nevada water is the life blood of the land. Sixty million acres were controlled and in effect owned by about a million acres, and not an opportunity for a single 160-acre homestead.

Five years ago this was the situation—a hopeless one. Public-spirited men had attempted to induce immigration and to encourage the development of their state, but their work had come to naught and they had to quit. There was no chance.

Yet all the time there was still a great water supply running to waste annually. The perennial flow of the rivers and streams was entirely utilized, but the floods from the melting of the mountain snows swept away uselessly to the sea.

Viewing the situation as it was then, who would have dared to predict that with the passage of the national irrigation act could have occurred the great transformation and development of Nevada, and if it had been predicted, who would have believed it? Of the \$37,000,000 government reclamation fund, Nevada has thus far received her fair share, and the completion of the great project upon which the federal engineers are now working will more than quadruple the already increased population of the state.

The first section of the Truckee-Carson project has been completed and the settlers are now farming the fertile land in 80-acre homesteads. By next year 150,000 acres of this project will be under irrigation.—Successful American.

### Both Presbyterians.

In the Missouri state prison at Jefferson City are 1,761 prisoners. According to an article in the North American 395 of them are Baptists, 301 Methodists, six Jews and one Christian Scientist.

This calls to mind a story about the late Rev. Dr. John Hall. The good doctor was once walking home from preaching at a Sunday night meeting out in the country. In the moonlight he saw a man lying drunk in the gutter, and going up to him, gave him a shake.

"Here," he said, "it is a shame for a nice, respectable-looking man like you to be lying in the gutter."

The man opened his tipsy eyes and saw the long, black coat.

"Are you a minister?" he asked.

"Yes," said Dr. Hall; "come, get up."

"Presbyterian?" queried the inebriate.

"Yes," was the answer, somewhat impatiently, "I am."

"Then," said the other, "help me up, I'm a Presbyterian myself."

### Easy Way to Return Favors.

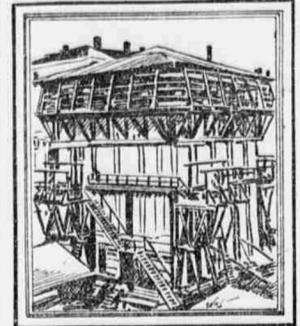
"If you owe somebody a dinner or something, or an entertainment," remarked the careful man, "the best way I know to return it is to send them complimentary concert tickets somebody has given you. I know a pair of such tickets that did duty six times in the way of returning obligations. I started them, they passed on to five other people, and by jingo! if they finally didn't get back to me."

### PROGRESS OF NEW CAMPANILE.

Over Fifty Feet Above Piazza is Already Completed.

Venice.—The new Campanile of St. Mark now rises 54 feet above the piazza. As the work progresses a curious covered platform rises with it. Owing to the slowness of the work it is impossible to estimate with an exactness the date of completion.

The old Campanile fell July 14, 1902. In the following spring, April 25, 1903, the corner stone of the new structure was laid in the presence of the count of Turin, representing King Victor Emmanuel, and Cardinal Sarto, patriarch of Venice, who, a few



Present Condition of Campanile.

months later, was to become Pope Pius X. The regular work of laying the foundation was then begun.

In order to render the basic structure homogeneous the engineers proceeded to enlarge the old foundations by the original method of piles, platform, clamped stones, and stones arranged stepwise up to the level of the piazza. A ditch about 16 feet deep—that is, down to the level of the pile heads—was dug all around the old foundations to the width of about 12 feet and carefully bratticed. Into the area thus laid bare they proceeded to drive 3,076 piles of larchwood from Cadore, fresh cut so as to insure the presence of abundant resin.

The average diameter of the piles is 8 1/4 inches. Larch was preferred to oak, partly because experience has shown its admirable power of resisting decomposition when buried in the clay of the lagoon bed, and partly because larch piles are straight, whereas oak is often bent and twisted, and would, therefore, have left frequent interstices.

The piles are on an average 13 feet long. They were driven home to almost absolute resistance—i. e., till they yielded only one millimeter to each blow from a weight of 570 pounds raised four feet six inches. They are calculated to have a carrying power of 90,000 tons. The weight of the tower they are to support is estimated at 20,000 tons, allowing for hollow space. At the angles the piles are in contact with each other, elsewhere they average a dozen to the square meter, the total enlargement of the foundation area amounting to 240 square meters.

The pile driving was completed on October 8, 1904. Then came an attack upon the old foundations, consisting of a cut made eight feet deep all around, so that the new platform could be knitted to the old. Then on top of this new platform massive blocks of Istrian stone, cut in parallel oolites, were carefully cemented together. These Istrian stones, noted for their fine grain, are in 11 courses, and enter the old foundations to the depth of six feet six inches, the largest blocks being nine feet nine inches in length and four feet seven inches in width. The new shaft is thus being raised from what is practically a new platform, the weight of which is partially borne by the old piles.

### CHICAGO PROFESSOR HONORED.

Dr. Chamberlain Heads Association for Advancement of Science.

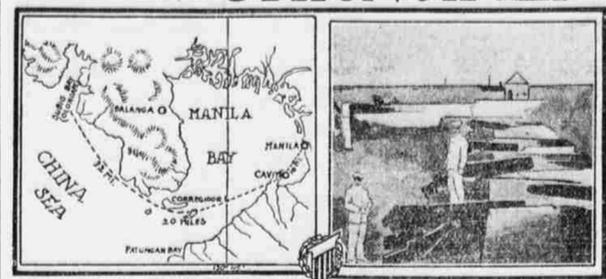
Chicago.—Dr. Thomas Chrowder Chamberlain, who has been elected



PROF. T. C. CHAMBERLAIN

president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and who will confer with President Roosevelt regarding the conservation of the natural resources of the country, is the professor and head of the department of geology at the University of Chicago. He is a noted expert in the action of glaciers. He was graduated from Beloit University and until his connection with the University of Chicago he was occupied chiefly as an educator in various institutions in Wisconsin. He has also served as geologist for the United States and has been head of the glacial division of government geology since 1882.

# FOR A PHILIPPINE STRONGHOLD



MAP SHOWING CAVITE AND SUBIG BAY. THE TWO POINTS BEING CONSIDERED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NAVAL BASE.

The growing commercial interest of the United States in the far east is pressing home upon Americans who appreciate the present and the future possibilities of such trade and the necessity of proper safeguarding of these interests, and the providing of adequate security for our position in the Pacific ocean, which body of water is now recognized by many as the probable future center of the world's greater activities.

It may be said, briefly, that the security of American interests in the Pacific depends upon command of the sea, in comparison with any probable antagonist; and command of the sea in turn depends, in addition to marine armaments, upon coaling stations and naval bases. Naval armaments are practically useless in any locality without convenient facilities for supply and repair. Such facilities depend upon two elements—natural and artificial—harbors and landing places, and the necessary depots and mechanical adjuncts.

The United States is already supplied with ample natural facilities in the Pacific. It remains, therefore, to provide only the artificial element. The attributes required are dry docks for ships of all sizes, coal and coaling machinery, shops provided with machinery and material to make repairs to both ships and armaments, and depots containing ample reserves of all needed supplies, such as food, ship stores, arms and ammunition. Where the natural conditions are favorable, to provide all these things requires only time and money.

The value of American naval bases in Asiatic waters may be said to apply chiefly to a war between the United States and an Asiatic power; for, while some European nations might conduct large naval operations in this part of the world, the crux of any conflict between America and another western power will not be here, and no naval force alone can wrest any of our Pacific possessions from us. Only armies can do this, and it is not now feasible for any European power to assemble in the far east and transport by sea a formidable army in the face of serious opposition.

Of Asiatic nations which may conceivably come into collision with the United States there are only two—China and Japan; so the proposition of the defense of our interests and possessions in this locality seriously involves only these two possibilities. The internal situation and military unpreparedness of China removes all cause for apprehension from that source for many years to come; so estimation of the problem may be predicated upon the comparative situation of the United States and Japan.

When the islands were acquired from Spain we secured two so-called naval bases—those at Cavite and Olongapo. These yards are hardly worthy of the name in a modern sense, the facilities being limited to shops where minor repairs can be made. There was then no dry dock at either place, although at Cavite small craft can be shored upon ways. Since their acquisition the only important improvements have been the erection of a coaling plant at Cavite, a similar plant at Olongapo now nearly completed, and the placing of the floating dock Dewey at Olongapo. There have been some additional quarters erected at Olongapo for the accommodation of officers and marines. On the whole, however, the work of improving these yards has stagnated, notwithstanding that with each passing year the need for proper facilities has become more pressing and important.

There are several contributing reasons for this condition. The failure of congress to make appropriations is one; but the real cause is the failure of the war and navy departments to agree upon a site. Six years ago a naval board was ordered to examine and report upon sites in the Philippines. Quite a number were examined, but none except Cavite and Olongapo have ever been seriously considered. The navy quickly decided that Subig bay, where Olongapo is situated, fulfills to a remarkable degree all the natural requirements demanded. Plans for an elaborate base at Olongapo were prepared and are now waiting upon congressional approval.

While congress has been somewhat slow, perhaps reluctant to act in the matter, owing to uncertainty about our policy in the Philippines and failure fully to comprehend the importance of such a base, it is probable that the question of a site would have been decided before now and the work definitely begun had not the military and naval experts disagreed about it. Two factions sprung into existence; one fa-

vorng Olongapo, and the other Cavite. While each faction finds supporters in both army and navy, it is generally true that the navy prefers Olongapo, while the army insists that Cavite is the better place.

This divergence between the naval and military point of view is characteristic of the two services, which approach the question from different angles—a suitable harbor, and one capable of being easily defended from a naval attack. The army, whose task will be to defend the base from an attack by land, is apt to judge the problem only from this standpoint. Since the two propositions can never be entirely reconciled an intelligent decision must be based upon a comparative estimation of the elements involved. These elements are suitability, availability, defensibility and economics; and it may help toward a decision between Cavite and Olongapo to briefly elucidate their comparative merits and demerits.

The navy yard of Cavite is situated in Manila bay about ten miles by sea from the city of Manila. It is located on a shallow basin formed by a low-lying hook or spit of land which juts for half a mile out into the bay. Only small boats can now enter the basin, ships of any size having to anchor well out into the bay, which is here 30 miles across, in a practically open roadway where there is little protection from typhoons. To create a large base would mean a vast amount of dredging and the building of a breakwater, and it will always be necessary to keep dredges working to prevent the harbor from filling up.

In short, any suitable harbor at Cavite must be an artificial one. I have never met a naval expert who thinks favorably of Cavite purely from a naval standpoint. Many naval officers prefer to be stationed there rather than at Olongapo owing to its nearness to Manila. The influence of Manila residents is usually thrown in favor of Cavite for several reasons. The city wants the commercial benefits which may accrue from the proximity of such a base, and there is a belief that any defense of Cavite must also include a defense of Manila, which is a soothing thought to nervous people whose ideas of war are hazy.

### DEFENSE OF THE TARANTULA.

Venomous Insect Not Aggressive, According to This Writer.

The terrible tarantula is said to be more abused than abusive. It is not aggressive upon man nor is it often intrusive even, although every old miner and prospector has shaken one out of his boots or blankets in the morning, and always the size of a saucer, says a writer in the Chicago Tribune. It avoids the hot sunshine and remains well down in its burrow under the ground. About sundown it sallies forth and lies in waiting just below the opening of the burrow. It assumes this position whether it desires food or wishes only to get a bit of fresh air. It does not travel about in quest of food even when hungry, but remains quietly in the attitude described often for hours at a time. At the near approach of a caterpillar, grasshopper, beetle, or almost any creature of like size, other than its enemy the wasp, it rushes out and seizes it, but rarely goes farther than a few inches from the opening. One fair-sized insect a week is sufficient to satisfy its hunger because of its inactive existence, while it can live several months without food, even when most active, provided it has water. In autumn the spider closes the entrance with a crudely spun web. It is then ready to pass the winter in a semi-lethargic state, partaking of no food. In the spring it digs its way out. During the entire growth of the tarantula, which requires about 20 years, it sheds its entire skin about once a year in mid-summer. The event is an important one to the spider, and as it is then quite helpless the entrance is previously closed by a sheet of silk. In June 200 or 300 eggs are produced. Nature will favor two out of as many hundreds and protects them until they die of old age at about the end of 25 or 30 years.

### Dog Cave Warning of Death.

On the morning of October 19, one of my dogs set up a most mournful howl, and I got out of bed and wrote on the wall, "Some one is dead," and the following day related my experience to the salt officer stationed here and recorded it on his chunam. My sister died at 4:45 a. m. on the morning of October 19, at Wimbledon, exactly at the time that the dog gave the significant warning.—Letter in Madras Mail.