

1912

# THE NEW YORK OBSERVER

## The Next Step

What shall it be? and when?

Thus is summed up the passing of many of our days.

Ambition with a checkmate of pride often stands baffled, and the longing of the heart continues unrequited.

But progress forward may mean that a step backward must be taken, in order that the truest perspective is forthcoming; and here Satan often holds us fast by the bands of self-exaltation, while achievement waits upon  
THE NEXT STEP.

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## Traveling in North Africa

TIMFAD—EL-KANTARA—BISKRA

BY CHARLES AUGUSTUS STODDARD D.D.

THE winter climate of Algeria is not without its disappointments. When the sun shines the air is warm and balmy, but when clouds shut out the sun and deluges of rain pour down it is as cold and cheerless a place as the Riviera or Jamaica under like conditions. I have been fortunate in my travels here. Only one disagreeable storm met me, and that was upon the way to Biskra from Algiers, a driving and bitterly cold rain in which we entered Batna, and which left its traces in snow-covered peaks all over the Aures and Atlas Mountains. In the morning, when the motor cars were ready to take our party to the wonderful ruins of Timgad, fur coats and heavy rugs were welcome, and all day long we were glad to have abundant winter clothing. One of our number, from Ceylon, had not worn woolen clothes for several years and snow was to him a thing long past. But the sun soon came out with real African fervor, and when after a week's absence we were again at Batna there was not a reminder on plain or mountains of our first and last African snowstorm.

It was an unexpected novelty to drive sixty miles over a road as smooth as Central Park roads in an elegant automobile in North Africa, but that was the way we went from Batna to Timgad and Zambesi to view some of the finest Roman ruins which now assert the former supremacy and luxury of ancient Rome over the African shores of the Mediterranean. Zambesi was the headquarters of the famous Third Legion in Numidia in the first century of the Christian era, and the Roman Camp is one of the best preserved of such classic ruins. Its monumental entrance gateway is intact, and consists of four great archways enclosed in a rectangular pile of solid masonry, 33 by 25 yards in area and 50 feet in height. It is adorned outside with Corinthian columns on high pedestals and similar pilasters. The forum and ancient baths are equally well preserved.

From here we drove to Timgad, known in history as Thamusgadi, a Berber town in the east Algerian highlands. It dates from 100 A.D., was founded by Trajan, and for three centuries was a rich and flourishing center of Colonial Roman life. It declined in the wars of the fourth century, and was finally destroyed by the hostile Berber tribes in A.D. 535, and, having been abandoned by the Byzantine domination, its ruins, with the exception of Trajan's Arch—the best known triumphal arch in Africa—were gradually buried under the deposits of torrents, and for twelve centuries the place was consigned to complete oblivion. The only records of the existence of Timgad have been gathered from the inscriptions upon the buildings and stones, which have been brought to light by indefatigable excavations by the French government conducted since 1880 by intelligent architects and archæologists. Suppose one of the chief

cities of Europe or America, reduced to complete overthrow and covering, and losing all its history and inhabitants far more completely than Herculaneum and Pompeii did in A.D. 79, and we have a parallel to Timgad. But more wonderful still is the resurrection and rehabilitation of this imperial city. Its main streets, with the original sewers and pavements, have been uncovered, its magnificent public buildings have been located, and hundreds of columns and arches set up again. Multitudes of private houses are ranged along the streets; the capitol, theater, library, public baths, market and a wonderful palace of the Lertii family are opened to view. Hundreds of whole and broken columns, porticos and inscribed tablets have been dug up and erected in colonnades and groupings, and though we are not informed by these discoveries of the causes of the destruction of the place, or what has happened during its long burial, we are filled with wonder and curiosity as we witness its resurrection. There are no such unveilings of domestic and civic life here as the traveler sees at Pompeii, but the remains have a majesty and grandeur which the Italian buried city does not possess.

From Timgad we motored back to Batna, and then through a wild and desert country to El Kantara, where the river of the same name pours its torrents through a magnificent pass called the "Mouth of the Desert," formed by the red limestone rocks of Jebel Gaous and Jebel Esson, into a highly picturesque palm-oasis, and then is lost in the desert of Sahara. At El Kantara we spent some time in visiting the Moorish villages that exist on the edges of the oasis and making our first acquaintance with the Sahara. Then we went to Biskra by the last link of railways which has been built on that African line. It has been surveyed several hundred miles further south into the desert, but the rails end at Biskra. Owing to its fine climate this town has grown into favor with French and English as a winter resort, and it is the starting place for many caravan excursions, as well as of the diligence of Tougort and other towns on oases in the Sahara.

Biskra lies 360 miles from the sea, on the right bank of the Wady Biskra, a river often nearly dry for many months in the year, but swollen this winter several times so greatly as to be unfordable for weeks at a time. The rains of one or two days make it a mighty torrent, which spreads over a great region of country, and which also subsides as suddenly as it grew. Here, in a good garden with palms and hundreds of other trees and flowers, I purpose to rest awhile, unless the sun gets too hot or the crowds attracted by camel and other races drive me elsewhere. There is nothing to remind me of New York, except the familiar name of some American, like Mr. Fleming H. Revell, of 156 Fifth avenue, and that only tells me that he has moved on.

## THE CHURCH IN PHILADELPHIA

By Henry Pringle Ford

THE funeral service over the body of the late Rear Admiral George W. Melville, held in this city last week, was conducted by Dr. John R. Davies, pastor of the Bethlehem church. The daughters of the Admiral are members of the Bethlehem church, and his grandchildren attend its Sunday school. He left \$5,000 by his will to the Presbyterian Hospital of Philadelphia.

The Presbytery of Philadelphia North has elected the following commissioners: Revs. William Beatty Jennings, John F. Sheppard, William L. Schmalhorst and Robert M. Blackburn, and Messrs. Horace P. Camden, E. A. Zellar, Charles D. Wright and Henry L. Davies. This Presbytery will overture the General Assembly to make the basis of representation in the future a minister and elder for every forty ministers, instead of for every twenty-four, as at present.

Recent accessions to our churches have been: Grace, the Rev. Robert A. Hunter pastor, 15; Scots, the Rev. D. Stuart Moore, D.D., pastor, 11; Princeton, the Rev. H. Alford Boggs pastor, 12; Hollond Memorial, the Rev. C. A. R. Janvier pastor, 18; Gaston, the Rev. Walter B. Greenway pastor, 19; St. Paul's the Rev. J. Beveridge Lee, D.D., pastor, 33; Northminster, the Rev. W. Courtland Robinson pastor, 42; Emmanuel, the Rev. Edward S. Bowman, D.D., pastor, 31; Fourth, vacant, 9; Northern Liberties, the Rev. W. M. Holderby pastor, 11; First, Camden, the Rev. George H. Hemingway, D.D., pastor, 36.

On March 20 Dr. J. R. Miller observed another birthday anniversary. The young ladies of his class in St. Paul's church gave him a delightful birthday supper, and he was the recipient of a large number of flowers, letters and personal calls. Dr. Miller is still able to continue faithfully at his desk in the performance of his editorial duties in connection with the Board of Publication and Sabbath School Work, and there is no cessation of his beautiful ministrations of loving service to those in need. The impress of his life of cheer and encouragement has helpfully influenced thousands of other lives.

The Rev. Edgar P. Hill, D.D., of McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, was the preacher in Calvary church last Sabbath. This pulpit has been vacant since the death of Dr. J. Sparhawk Jones, in August, 1910. Since the death of this distinguished minister the Board of Publication has issued a small volume of his sermons, entitled, "Saved by Hope," containing fourteen of his discourses. The book is dedicated "To those in Baltimore who recall his ministry; and to his beloved people of Calvary church, Philadelphia. He who preached these sermons lived himself by the light he gave to others, in all patience, courage, charity and hope."

A very tender and impressive memorial service in honor of the late Frank De Witt Talmage, D.D., was held in the Chambers-Wylie church, of which he was the pastor, on Sabbath afternoon, March 24. Mr. John E. McCully, a trustee of the church, presided and made an address. Dr. S. Edward

Young, who succeeded Dr. Talmage as pastor of the Second church, Pittsburgh, came over from Brooklyn and paid a tender tribute to the memory of his dead friend. Other addresses were made by Dr. Loyal Y. Graham, to whom Dr. Talmage was assistant pastor in the Olivet church, Philadelphia, at the beginning of his ministry in 1893, and by Dr. Robert Hunter and Dr. Albert N. Keigwin. By a singular coincidence both Dr. Hunter and Dr. Keigwin both lost sons just after they had entered upon their first pulpit charges. Dr. J. Gray Bolton and Dr. William Y. Brown offered prayers.

At the meeting of the Superintendents' Association on the evening of March 18, in the Tioga church, Dr. Alexander Henry spoke very interestingly of the work accomplished by the missionary work of the Board of Publication during the twenty-five years of its organization. Some 2,000 schools have been organized, into which have been gathered more than one million children; and from these schools above 1,500 Presbyterian churches have been organized.

Much interest is manifested over the statement that Dr. Charles Wood, formerly pastor of the Second church, Philadelphia, and now pastor of the Church of the Covenant, Washington, District of Columbia, will be the special preacher at the Brotherhood of St. Andrew's Lenten services this week in the prominent St. Stephen's Protestant Episcopal church. This will be the first time, it is said, that a Presbyterian minister has addressed an Episcopal Lenten service in this city. Presbyterians will be gratified and relieved to know that Dr. Wood lectures, according to the announcements of the meetings, "By special permission of Bishop Rhinelander."

## WOMAN'S BOARD OF MISSIONS MEET

THE subject of the freedmen was considered at the third Tuesday meeting of the Woman's Board of Home Missions, held at 156 Fifth avenue, New York, on March 19, Mrs. J. H. Peters presiding. During the devotional service special mention was made of the death of Mrs. Charles L. Bailey, for many years the president of the Synodical Society of Pennsylvania. The lesson of her beautiful life, her deep spirituality, her devotion to all that contributed to the highest ideals of Christian living were mentioned by the presiding officer, after which special prayer was offered.

Miss Jackson, of Haines School, Augusta, Georgia, was then introduced as the speaker for the day. Miss Jackson brought an optimistic message, especially emphasizing the fact that the greatest encouragement of the work during the past year was found in the increased attendance in schools, in the improved conditions in the homes and the general upbuilding of the negro.

Miss Rose Harper, president of the Woman's Missionary Society of St. James church, New York (colored), was then introduced. She told of the organization of the children's band of the Woman's Missionary Society in St. James church and the efforts that the colored people of that congregation were making to maintain

services and to develop the church life in her own community.

## CORNERSTONE AND DEDICATION

By Rev. W. E. Donaldson

IT is a very unusual thing to have the cornerstone of one building laid and the dedication of another building standing on another part of the same lot scheduled for the same afternoon and yet both exercises conducted by the same people. Yet this was the case when the cornerstone was laid as part of the Rev. George McKinley Memorial University Presbyterian Church at the corner of John and Fifth streets, Champaign, Illinois.

The day was a bright and pleasant one and seemed to be an earnest of the blessing of God upon the work that is to be carried on in this building in the interests of the Presbyterian students attending that great University.

The Rev. J. Frank Young, pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Carthage and moderator of the Synod of Illinois, presided at both services. The opening prayer was offered by the Rev. Wilson E. Donaldson, pastor of the Fifty-second avenue Presbyterian Church, Chicago, who is also secretary of the Synod's Committee on Christian Education. The Scripture was read by the Rev. Charles R. Adams, the new pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Champaign. The meaning of the Presbyterian movement was explained by the chairman of the Synod's Committee on Christian Education, the Rev. W. S. P. Bryan, D.D., pastor of the Church of the Covenant (Presbyterian), Chicago. The Hon. William B. McKinley, the donor of the church building as a memorial to his own father, made the "Address of Presentation" in very tender and exceedingly appropriate words. Then the Rev. Charles M. Wilder, D.D., pastor of the Windsor Park Presbyterian Church, Chicago, who had been pastor of the Champaign church during the latter days of the Rev. George McKinley, delivered the memorial address, in which he paid a glowing tribute to the minister who had been so loyal and far-seeing in laying foundations for education and Christianity which have borne the fruitage that is manifest to-day.

One of the men who has been greatly interested in the work on Christian education in the bounds of the Synod of Illinois from the first, and who proved that interest by an offer of \$10,000, was Dr. H. P. Merriman, who had lived in Chicago for a great many years. For several years he has resided in California; and from that home on earth he went to his heavenly home October 18, 1911. Mrs. Merriman sent "Greetings" which were read, and these, with other greetings and addresses of the day, also photographs and brief sketches of the life of the donor and of his father, were deposited in the copper box in the "cornerstone."

The Rev. J. R. E. Craighead, of Union Academy, who served for six years as a member of Synod's Committee on Christian Education, read a poem which he had prepared especially for the occasion.

Greetings from the University of Illinois were presented by the vice-president, Thomas J. Burrill, Ph.D., LL.D.

The general address of the occasion was