

Tatars and Turks. Since 1900 work has been done there by members of the Crimean Parochial Missionary Society. Their methods of work are twofold. An itinerating missionary, well acquainted with the Turkish and Arabic languages, travels over hills and valleys exhorting, preaching, and distributing Christian literature in the vernacular. So far, every year from two to five souls have been baptized. Besides this work, missionaries are being prepared for this field in ecclesiastical schools and seminaries where Turkish and Arabic are taught, with the Koran and apologetics. The work among the Crimean Tatars is said to have been particularly difficult in the beginning. Here also there were apostasies to Islam after the proclamation of religious liberty in 1905. But now the Moslems seem to be more friendly. The Crimean Missionary Society's report shows a spirit of brotherly love and faith.

In the east and southeast of European Russia, as for instance in the provinces of Yekaterinburg, Ufa, the Ural district, Orenburg, Astrakhan, and the region of Kuban, are to be found more or less developed educational and medical mission work, parish work among the "anciently baptized," and tours through the sandy steppes with word and literature. Here and there colonies for converts from Islam have been founded. But wherever the Mohammedans, whether Kirghis, Bashkirs, Turkomans or other tribes, live in the neighbourhood of Tatars, they infallibly come under their influence and the battle is made more strenuous for the Christian missionary. In the steppes, as in the towns and villages, an ever-growing Moslem propaganda is going on, the Mullas wandering far and wide to make proselytes, to strengthen the weak in faith, while material help is always at hand and freely given to the newly converted or for the building of schools and mosques.