

**IN THE VALLEY OF THE
NILE: A SURVEY
OF THE MISSIONARY
MOVEMENT IN EGYPT**

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In the valley of the Nile: a survey of the missionary movement in Egypt by Charles R. Watson

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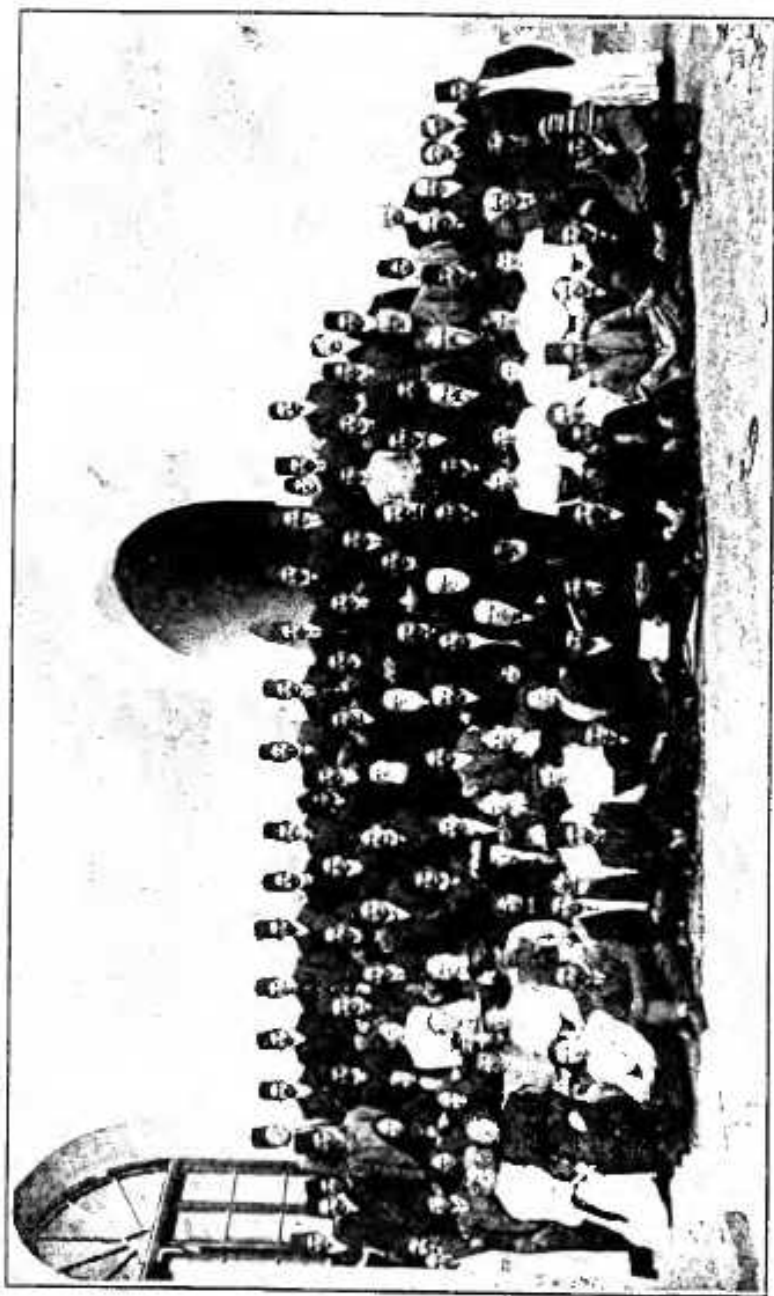
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CHARLES R. WATSON

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MISSIONARY WORKERS
At the Jubilee Anniversary of the American Mission

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A SURVEY OF THE MISSIONARY
MOVEMENT IN EGYPT

BY
CHARLES R. WATSON



ILLUSTRATED



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PREFACE

AN invitation to deliver the Students' Lectures on Missions at the Princeton Theological Seminary afforded the opportunity and the special occasion for gathering together the material to be found in this book. These lectures are published with the conviction that there is a need for a volume which will present, in outline at least, the story of Christian missionary effort in the Valley of the Nile.

It is estimated that some twelve thousand English-speaking tourists visit Egypt every year. A large proportion of these are deeply interested in the progress of Christianity throughout the world. To these we may add a much larger number of men and women of Great Britain and America who have become deeply interested in this historic and Bible land through an acquaintance with it more or less direct. It is strange that, apart from denominational publications which necessarily fail to reach the general traveling and reading public, there is barely a book which undertakes to portray religious conditions and to tell the story of modern missions in the Nile Valley.

The present book cannot be regarded as more than a handbook on Egypt in its relation to Christianity and Christian missions. The subject is a large one, and on every hand the possibilities of detailed study present themselves. For those who desire to pursue further their study of various questions or periods, references have been given in the Appendix. Those who desire to arrive at once at the story of modern missions, will pass over the first two chapters. These, however, were inserted for the sake of explaining historically, as well as to present practically, the true genius of the two religions with which the modern missionary must deal. As no new material on the subject of Moravian missions in Egypt was available or discoverable, it was found necessary to make use, at this point, of material used in the author's "Egypt and the Christian Crusade."

Missionary work in Egypt has unusual claims upon the student of world movements. The early introduction of the Christian faith into Egypt and its rapid spread, constitute a thrilling chapter in the history of early Christianity. The subsequent decay of the movement teaches sober lessons as to the imperative duty of safeguarding the purity of Christian faith and life. Egypt also presents a unique opportunity for studying from every point of view the widespread Moslem faith, for,

here, Islam dominates and has moulded every sphere of life—the social, the political, the moral, the religious, the intellectual, the industrial, and the commercial. Furthermore, the record of the modern missionary enterprise is one of rare interest. There is the inspiring story of the Moravian missions, the interesting record of the British Church Missionary Society, the stirring narrative of the American Mission. The study of these modern missionary efforts must be not only deeply suggestive to the student of missions, but spiritually stimulating to every one interested in the progress of Christianity in the world.

The author wishes to express his indebtedness to valuable historical works bearing upon his theme, found in the Congressional Library at Washington, the Astor Library of New York, and the Foreign Mission Library of the Yale Divinity School, and also to that exhaustive and interesting record "The American Mission in Egypt," by Andrew Watson, D.D.

If this book shall avail at all to quicken faith in the conquering power of Christianity, to deepen the sense of obligation for missionary activity, and to hasten the Christian evangelisation of Egypt, the aim of the writer will have been accomplished.