

**PERSIA: EASTERN MISSION. A NARRATIVE  
OF THE FOUNDING AND FORTUNES OF THE  
EASTERN PERSIA MISSION, WITH A SKETCH  
OF THE VERSIONS OF THE BIBLE AND  
CHRISTIAN LITERATURE IN THE PERSIAN  
AND PERSIAN-TURKISH LANGUAGES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649743490

Persia: Eastern Mission. A Narrative of the Founding and Fortunes of the Eastern Persia Mission, with a Sketch of the Versions of the Bible and Christian Literature in the Persian and Persian-Turkish Languages by Rev. James Bassett

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**REV. JAMES BASSETT**

**PERSIA: EASTERN MISSION. A NARRATIVE  
OF THE FOUNDING AND FORTUNES OF THE  
EASTERN PERSIA MISSION, WITH A SKETCH  
OF THE VERSIONS OF THE BIBLE AND  
CHRISTIAN LITERATURE IN THE PERSIAN  
AND PERSIAN-TURKISH LANGUAGES**



PERSIA:  
EASTERN MISSION.

A NARRATIVE

OF THE

FOUNDING AND FORTUNES OF THE EASTERN  
PERSIA MISSION.

WITH A SKETCH OF THE VERSIONS OF THE BIBLE  
AND CHRISTIAN LITERATURE IN THE PERSIAN  
AND PERSIAN-TURKISH LANGUAGES.

BY THE

REV. JAMES BASSETT,

AUTHOR OF "PERSIA: LAND OF THE IRANS."



PHILADELPHIA :  
PRESBYTERIAN BOARD OF PUBLICATION  
AND SABBATH-SCHOOL WORK,  
1334 CHESTNUT STREET.

TO THE

HONORABLE GEORGE W. BASSETT,

THROUGH WHOSE TENDER AND DEVOTED CARE OF OUR  
AGED PARENTS THE OPPORTUNITY WAS GIVEN  
FOR THESE YEARS OF MISSIONARY TOIL,

AND IN

MEMORY OF HIS CONSECRATED LIFE,

THESE PAGES ARE DEDICATED

BY HIS BROTHER,

THE AUTHOR.



## PREFACE.

---

THE attention of the public is drawn, at the present time, to Persia by reason of the Shah's recent visit to Europe. It appears to be assumed by many persons that because the people are interested in him they will be concerned to know more of his land and of whatever is likely in any way to affect the future of his kingdom. A glance at what is now commonly written concerning that land will reveal the effort which is made to please the public by presenting whatever is most curious and fabulous in the Shah and his country. When the popular taste for the disgusting cannot be satisfied with fact, there are many writers ready to supply the lack from fancy and to recall the fictions of China and the Middle Ages. When the public taste calls for more refined delusions, the demand is supplied by the suppression of some facts and the exaggeration of others. The people have been taught to look upon the Shah as a coarse beast, or as a magician whose province it is to call up the fabulous era with which the name of Persia has been for so long a time associated. He and his land have been seen through a cloud of ro-



mance. His attire and manners, so much in contrast with the costume and ways of European princes, and his sparkling gems, are in keeping with the popular fancy and aid in perpetuating the delusions of past ages. Diplomacy also is busy in magnifying his importance, and rivals vie with one another in inciting the populace to render attentions which may serve to disclose the value of the services which they have given to the Shah, the Queen and the Czar. Amid them all the amiable king of Persia comes as the fabled sheep of the golden fleece, to be either sheared by European sovereigns or to bear back to his own desert country countless aspirations to rival the glory of Christian lands.

In the prevalence of this demand for the fabulous, and while the critics and the people see this far-off country in the magic light of Aladdin's wonderful lamp, I could not reasonably expect to break the spell or meet the call for the graphic and marvelous by the plain story of the humble efforts of a few missionaries. Yet I feel confident of being able to shed a light which, if it does not have the charm to transmute all base things on which it falls to gold and gems, will reveal things as they are, and disclose a power at work in that realm destined to make more useful, if not more mysterious, changes than those which were wrought by Aladdin's lamp. However, if any persons care not to journey with me in my humble way, I leave them to take

the "enchanted horse" which stands ready in nearly every bookstall to bear them to the Land of the Sun. I shall have rendered some good service if these pages dispel somewhat of the cloud of fable with which the Shah and his land have been invested, and if they shall cast some light on the conditions in which he is placed. Especially will they serve a good purpose if they shall bring to his aid and to the Christian workers there the sympathies of the friends of progress and the prayers of the Church of God.

The object of this volume is to give the principal facts in the founding and fortunes of the Eastern Persia Mission of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions in the United States. The book, though complete in itself, is part of a more extended one comprehending a narrative of the founding and fortunes of the Church and missions in Persia.

In this volume the author has shunned a repetition of all matters treated of in his earlier work, entitled *Persia: Land of the Imams*, so far as such omission seemed to be consistent with a fair understanding of the subjects considered. For this reason there is in this book no such extended treatment of some topics as their importance might seem to justify. That book describes the natural resources of the country, its principal places, people, customs and religions, and does not give any particular or full account of the missions in that land. But this book treats chiefly of the missionary work.

I think it will be in place here to refer to some errors concerning the missionaries and their work in Eastern Persia which have been bandied about in conspicuous places.

The author of the work entitled *The Land of the Lion and the Sun* in the opening sentence of his book pretends to quote the words of an American missionary. I would remind the readers of that book that the sentence referred to is a falsehood, invented, as I suppose, by Dr. Wills, the author of the work. No American missionary ever used the words given as a quotation in that sentence. Dr. Wills might have found men of his own nation, near at hand, who could say "wall" for *well*, "hegg" for *egg*, and "'orse" for *horse*; so I can conjecture two reasons only why the doctor should have invented that fiction—namely, to establish the blood-relationship of the American missionaries to himself by pronunciation, or to start off his book on Persia with such a myth as would season all the rest of it.

Many errors of statement are made with reference to the missionary work, both by new missionaries and by those who in America seem to be charged with the duty of providing information for the people. There is altogether too much eagerness on the part of these persons to make their own facts and invest the whole with the charm of romance. I will not attempt to designate all these errors, for many of them have resulted from no evil intent, but simply from lack of knowledge and of