

ISLAM IN CHINA

A NEGLECTED PROBLEM

By

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TO
THE MANY KIND FRIENDS
SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE CHINESE EMPIRE
AND OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD
WHO HAVE SO WILLINGLY ASSISTED THE AUTHOR
THIS BOOK
IS MOST GRATEFULLY DEDICATED

"He shall have dominion also from sea to sea,
 And from the river unto the ends of the earth.
 They that dwell in the wilderness shall bow before him ;
 And his enemies shall lick the dust.
 And kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall bring presents,
 The kings of the Arabians and Saba shall offer gifts.
 Yea, all kings shall fall down before him :
 All nations shall serve him."

PSALM lxxii. 8-11 (LXX. translation).

"The most distant west and south become subject and tributary to Him :
 the kings of Tarshish in the south of Spain, which was rich in silver, and of the
 islands of the Mediterranean and of the countries on its coasts ; the kings
 also of the South Arabian (Joktanitish) אֲרָבִי and of the Cushite אֲכַשׁ or
 Meroë, as according to Josephus the capital of Meroë was called (*vide* on
 Genesis x. 7). It was the Queen of that Joktanitic and therefore South Arabian
 (Luther : Kingdom of Arabia = Arabia Felix) אֲרָבִי whom the fame of the wisdom
 of Solomon led to visit him."

FRANZ DELITZSCH on Psalm lxxii.

INTRODUCTORY PREFACE

THIS volume marks a distinct step in the progress of missionary investigation in China, and is the first book of its character in the English language. It is both historical and descriptive of present-day conditions, and is based on thorough investigations and scientific criticism of sources. Begun in connection with the work of Commission I. of the Edinburgh World Missionary Conference, it might be called one of the first by-products of a gathering which will doubtless result in other important contributions to the literature and science of Missions.

The author has had special opportunities for prosecuting his investigations : first as a missionary to the Chinese ; later as a student of his subject in closest touch with the libraries of the World's Metropolis ; and lastly through an extensive correspondence with friends and acquaintances scattered throughout the Chinese Empire. The large numbers of prominent missionary correspondents and others in China who are in daily contact with the Moslems of that Empire have afforded him invaluable material, thus enabling him to produce a book which is more helpful to the cause of Missions than any of the earlier works of French, German, and Russian writers ; and although not so exhaustive as one of the French works, more accurate in its conclusions.

Mr. Broomhall has set before the Christian world the present-day aspect of a great and largely unknown subject. The accessible Moslem population of China is larger than

the Moslem population of Egypt, Persia, or Arabia; and yet practically nothing has been done for them, and their presence has been almost ignored by the missionary movement. In this book he has given the public a very comprehensive and readable account in which all the essential facts in the problem are luminously set forth. The subject is made to live as it has not been in some of the learned volumes which his predecessors have produced. The critical hour is at hand when Moslem missions in China must be faced, and specialists set to work to win this great neglected class for the Christ. There seems little doubt that systematic special effort on behalf of these millions would yield speedy and permanent results—as is the case, for example, among the Mohammedans of Malaysia; but the special nature of the problem calls for specially trained workers, and for a special literature.

We bid the volume God-speed as a most helpful contribution to one of the greatest missionary problems of the present century.

JOHN R. MOTT.

HARLAN P. BEACH.

SAMUEL M. ZWEMER.

*Chairman and Members of Commission I.
World's Missionary Conference, Edinburgh, 1910.*

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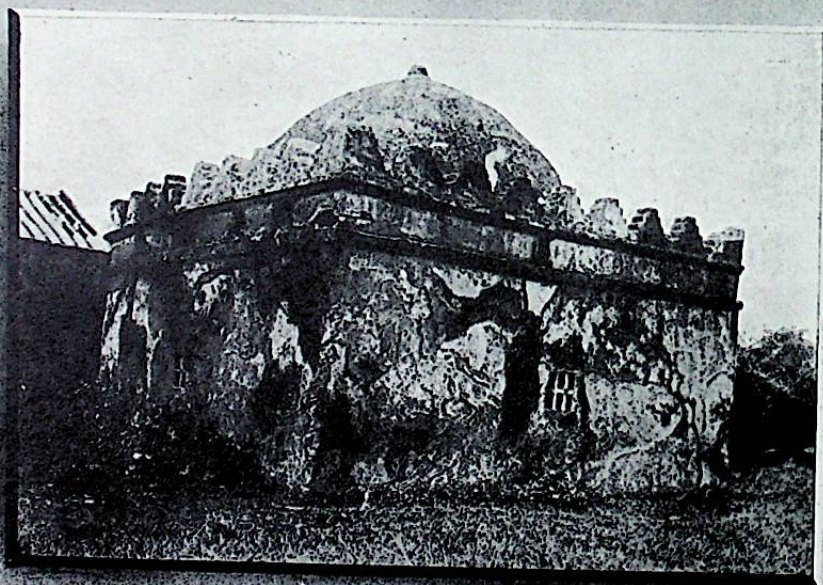
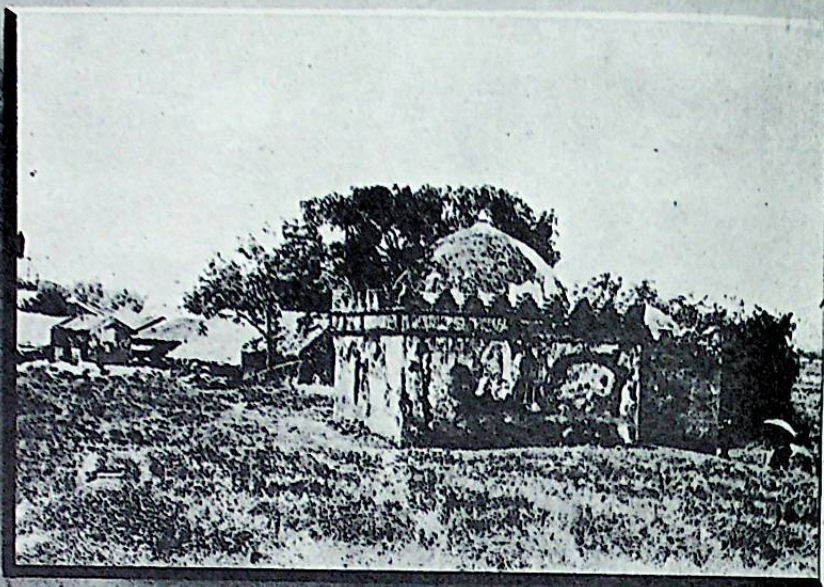
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Photos by

Mr. Hans Döring.

THE REPUTED TOMB OF MOHAMMED'S MATERNAL UNCLE AT CANTON.

For the legends concerning the tomb see especially Chapter IV. "Chinese Mohammedan Tradition." For a discussion as to the claim see especially Chapter VII. "The Mosques and Tombs of Canton." This tomb is greatly venerated and made an object of pilgrimage by Chinese Moslems.

Frontispiece.



The late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries saw the publication of many books promoting evangelical Christian missionary work in Muslim countries, particularly in Africa, Asia and the Far East. *Islam in China*, first published in 1910, was promulgated by the World Missionary Conference in order to help establish Christian missionary policy in China.

Though the nature of missionary work has changed, and though world events have overtaken religious practices in China, the value of the present work now lies in its study of Chinese Muslims, their culture and modes of worship, and their part in the complex fabric of Chinese society. Illustrated with many photographs showing traditional Islamic architecture and design, curiously influenced by Chinese styles, the book presents a comprehensive portrait of life among the many millions of Muslims in China at the turn of the century.



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