

which he had begun perished also. The Mings, who succeeded as rulers of China, wanted no foreign religion. At the same time the zeal for missions was growing cold in Europe, which was absorbed in its own political and religious difficulties. The Church which had converted the Goths and Teutons and Huns, allowed Africa, the land of Tertullian, Cyprian, Athanasius and Augustine, to be conquered by Islam, and by the fall of Constantinople (1453) the Moslem power gained a foothold in Europe itself. The period preceding the Reformation was not of a character to lead to missionary activity.