

still more corrupt and incompetent to anything good. Islam took possession of Palestine, Syria, Egypt, and Northern Africa. It conquered Asia Minor, Mesopotamia, and finally all the domains of the Greek emperor centring at Constantinople.

“For a time it seemed to make skilful use of its suddenly acquired treasures. It bestowed great honour upon learned Jews or Christians who accepted the faith. Its most distinguished men in learning, art, and war, by sea and by land, were converts from the Christian faith. They established a wonderful kingdom in Spain. The Black Sea, the Marmora, and the Mediterranean were theirs. Europe trembled before them. The Pope prayed against them, as did Luther and the Protestants.

“Of countries once dominated by Islam, Turkey has long been the glory. Her Sultan is the caliph, the successor of the Prophet; and the Sheikh-ul-Islam is the supreme judge of the faith. Turkey is not even the shadow of what she once was.

“Islam is a failure in wealth. It has had vast possessions, and has wasted them. It once had control of all the channels of commerce. The wealth of India and the commerce of the three seas mentioned above were all her own. She had the climates, the soils, the rivers, the sea coasts, the mines, out of which civilized nations produce boundless wealth. And yet, her greatest empire, Turkey, is too poor to pay its soldiers, and it cannot raise a loan of ten thousand pounds in any market in Europe. It cannot pay one per cent. on its public debt. No wealthy commercial Mohammedan state exists. Moslems have kept in their hands the slave trade of Africa, but that is doomed. Christian nations have taken commerce out of the hands of Mos-

lems, and they will probably keep it. Turkey, with all her natural resources, has become a spectacle of poverty. There is an inland trade that keeps alive some millions in a poor, miserable way. The states of Northern Africa have fallen under French influence. Egypt, first bankrupt, has fallen to England. Afghanistan may have a strategic value to England and Russia; aside from their ambitions, she is of little value to the world. What a conspicuous failure has Islam made with the wealth of the world! Once she was the richest of all the existing faiths; now the poorest, without a ray of hope for the future! She now lives by gnawing at her own vitals.

“What has Islam done with the arts, the so-called fine arts—music, painting, poetry, architecture, sculpture? Nothing, and less than nothing! She has destroyed the arts which she inherited. She conquered the highest civilization in the world in all these departments. If for a time she cultivated them they all perished in her hands. Christian nations have left her helplessly in the rear. She has no school of any art that adds anything to human knowledge.

“In legal science nothing has been accomplished since the reign of Solyman the Magnificent. His great code, in which he aimed to surpass Justinian, remains, during these three-and-a-half centuries, without any eminent addition.

“In the mechanic arts subsidiary to war she is also a pre-eminent failure. When Mohammed the Conqueror took Constantinople (1453), his armies were better trained and armed than were those of his European opponents. Now Islam goes to Christian manufacturers for arms with which to defend herself. She still has soldiers of desperate valour, ready