

restoration under the new law has proved both beneficial and popular. I have very lately ascertained that in several Parishes, and in many I doubt not, which have not come to my knowledge, these gentlemen have complied with another requirement of the Law, and again visited and examined their Schools since my visit. These are

good omens, and augur well for the future of our Schools, and for the early approach of the day when Teachers shall cease to be a bye-word and a reproach, as they have too long been, and when men shall think of them and speak of them as the country's brightest ornament and strongest guard."

## MISCELLANEOUS.

### Lecture Delivered before the Pugwash Literary Society.

#### SUBJECT—MOHAMMED.

GENTLEMEN,—

The design of your Lecturer on the present occasion is to unfold truthfully so far as it can now be gathered from the mists of tradition, the story of one of the most remarkable men that ever lived in the world.

When we consider the statements of statistical writers, asserting as they do, that at present one hundred and eighty millions of mankind, or nearly a fourth of the race, are followers of Mohammed; we anxiously desire to know something of the history and genius of the originator of this wide spread delusion. Mohammed is a unique character in history, furnishing so far as we know, the only example of a conqueror being the founder of a religion. Islamism as promulgated by the Arabian False Prophets, has continued to flourish over twelve hundred years among the more populous and cultivated nations of the three great Continents of the Eastern Hemisphere, and in not a few of them the Crescent has uprooted Christianity planted by the labors of Apostolic hands. Arabia, that land of desert and of freedom, settled by the wild roving and free-booting descendants of the Egyptian bond-maid's son, rightly claims Mohammed as its great prophet and legislator. That Mohammed was descended from Ishmael notwithstanding the sneers of the Infidel Author of the "Decline and Fall,"\* his torical evidence abundantly testifies, were we disposed to enter into the

discussion. His genealogy stands thus, he belongs to the Korish, first of all the Arab tribes—Hasham, whose family was in the ascendant among the Korish, was his great grandfather, ranking first among the princes of Mecca, and holding the keys of the Caaba, the most sacred temple of the Arabs.

Hence to the present time the chief magistrates of Mecca and Medina, who must be descendants of the Prophet, are styled princes of the Hashemites. Abdal Motaleb was the chief person in his day among the Korish. He succeeded his father Hashem in the government of Mecca, and the custody of the Caaba.

He lived to a great age, and had thirteen sons. One of his sons named Abdalla married Amina the beautiful daughter of Wahab, a chief of the same tribe. Amina was envied her good fortune in gaining the son of the revered keeper of the Caaba, for her husband, as the surpassing beauty of his person, and the elegance of his manners, is said to have smitten the hearts of a hundred of the fairest daughters of Mecca, who were by his choice of Amina left to mourn over the blight of their fondest anticipations. Mohammed was the first and only fruit of this union. He was born in Mecca, A. D. 569. The much admired Abdalla did not live to rejoice at this event. It was not his to receive with the pleasing emotion of the youthful husband this pledge of his fair Amina's fondest love. He died three days before his son, the fu-

\*Gibbon.