

ecclesiastical rule (order) ; they are not to beat themselves with leaded whips, and are to confess if they go to the play in the church-yard. This refers to the Miracle Plays. Miracle Plays set forth the lives of Saints ; Mystery Plays dealt with Scripture Mysteries, as, for example, the Resurrection. At first the actors were clerics only, and Miracle Plays formed a part of the Church service. Mystery Plays finally became very lengthy and were written in *sets*. The chief towns in England undertook to play them yearly. They embraced the Bible story from the Creation to the Day of Judgment, and lasted several days. They did not die out until the drama had attained notoriety, and William Shakespeare may have seen them acted at Coventry.

*The rise of Aristotelian Philosophy and Science.*—The revival of literature among Moslems soon felt in West. Work among Moslems done chiefly by exiled Greeks, by Christians and by Jews. Al Mamoun, son of Haroun al Raschid, more zealous than his father. The Arabs turned to the practical side of philosophy, and preferred Aristotle to Plato. *Avicenna* wrote a hundred philosophical works. *Averroes* made a famous commentary on Aristotle, known as the Great Commentary. Mathematics, medicine, and geography flourished ; also *astronomy*. Wherever the Arabs went they stimulated learning, notably in *Spain*. Besides the revival of learning due to them in the south of Europe and afterwards brought to a focus in Frederick's Sicilian court, they quickened Western imagination by their strong characteristic—a love of tales. (The "Thousand and One Tales" are proof.) *These gave a great impulse to Provençal or Troubadour love-songs, and hence fostered the spirit of Romance, which, by and by, assumes great importance.* It must be remembered that the Crusades brought Christian and Saracen into immediate contact in the East, and that the marvellous was a favourite theme around the camp-fire. The popularity, also, of profound Arabian commentators stimulated *allegory*.

In England science (much of it inexact) dealt with astronomy soon after the Conquest. Athelard of Bath, a traveller to the East, wrote "Questions in Nature," (Latin) displaying much allegory. The Friars leave lowly things and take to learning ; become prominent at University of Oxford. Robert Grosseteste, head of the Franciscans, writes allegorical philosophy. His pupil, ROGER BACON (1214-1292), a great Aristotelian, wrote "Opus