

religious reformer, was born in the province of Nejd in 1691. He proposed to reform Mohammedanism, which he claimed had become thoroughly corrupted. He proclaimed the equality of all men before God and declared that it was a sin to pray to departed saints or to honor their relics. His teachings gave rise to the sect known as Wahabites. Died 1787.

Abd-er-Rahman III., surnamed AN NASIR, the first Caliph of Cordova, Spain, began to reign in 912, and brought the Mohammedan empire in Spain to its highest glory. He was distinguished both as a warrior and a patron of art and learning, and one of his palaces near Cordova was decorated with unexampled magnificence. Died 961.

Abd-er-Rahman-Alghafekke, an Arab governor in Spain, who in 732 invaded France with a large army. Charles Martel met him at Tours and defeated him, he being killed in the battle. This victory saved Europe from danger of Mohammedan conquest.

Abd-ul-Aziz, a Turkish sultan, was born in 1830, and in 1861 succeeded his brother, Abd-ul-Medjid (1823-61). His reign was greatly disturbed by insurrections, and he was deposed in 1876 by the Sheikh-ul-Islam, and five days later was found dead, the victim probably of assassination.

Abd-ul-Hamid I., a sultan of Turkey, was born in 1725, and succeeded his brother, Mustapha III., in 1774. He was twice defeated in wars with Russia. Died 1789.

Abd-ul-Hamid II., Sultan of Turkey, son of Abd-ul-Medjid, was born September 22, 1842. He succeeded his imbecile brother, Moorad V., in 1876, the country being then involved in civil wars and insurrections, which were followed by the Russian war of 1877-78. As a result of defeat in this war, Turkey lost largely in territory. Other events of his reign were the Armenian massacres

of 1894-96, the rising in Crete, 1895-96, and the successful war with Greece in 1897. He was deposed in 1909.

Abd-ur-Rahman Khan, Ameer of Afghanistan, nephew of the late Ameer Shere Ali, was born about 1830, and in the civil war of 1864 won important victories against the Ameer. In 1868 he was defeated and forced to fly to Russian territory, where he was pensioned by Russia and given residence in Samarcand. He returned in 1879, was chosen Ameer by the leaders in Cabul, and was acknowledged as such by the British Government in India. He strengthened his position by a firm and vigorous administration. The British Government won his favor by an annual subsidy and large presents of military stores. Died 1901.

Abelard, Pierre, a celebrated French orator and writer, was born at Le Pallet, near Nantes, in 1079. After a period of study of the classical languages, he removed to Paris, where he studied under William de Champeaux, soon excelling his instructor as a debater and rhetorician. He founded a school at Melun in 1101 which attracted scholars in large numbers, and he afterward conducted a very successful school at Paris. About 1113 he began the study of theology under Anselm at Laon. His brilliant reputation, joined with his arrogance and vanity, made him bitter enemies, whose persecution drove him from the town. Opening a school again in Paris, he became more famous than ever; but an unfortunate attachment to one of his pupils, the beautiful Heloise, led to his downfall. His marriage with Heloise, after she had borne him a son, did not end the persecution of his enemies, and in the end he was driven to become a monk, while Heloise took the veil as a nun. Pupils soon followed him to the hermitage to which he retired, and it became a monastic school known as Paraclete. He subsequently became abbot of St. Gildas-de-Rhuys in Brittany, but after ten