

2. *It rejects atonement for sin.* The power of God, according to the Koran, is such that he can forgive sin without any amends being made to law and justice. On this point an interesting reminiscence comes to our mind. While travelling through Galilee, in 1858, our party employed a Mahomedan officer to act as guard for a few days. He was a fine man in appearance, speech, and manner, wearing at his belt pistols presented by some of the Bonaparte family for services rendered to them beyond the Jordan. While parting, and in giving him a copy of the Arabic Testament, we spoke of Christ, of sin, and atonement. He admitted he was a sinner, but God could forgive his sins. How? we asked. Without any penalty or punishment inflicted on you, or on any one in your place? Yes! How would it do for kings to forgive criminals on these conditions? "It would not do; but God is great, He can do what men cannot do." From this he could not be driven by any reasoning. He met all by saying, "*God is great.*" But to grant and receive forgiveness without an atonement, is a general license for sin, a license for playing fast and loose with the law of God. It is not thus pardon is dispensed under any wise government. "Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin." "With thee there is forgiveness that thou mayest be *feared*," expresses the attitude of soul towards God and his law generated by the doctrine of Christ's atonement.

3. *It propagates a dangerous lie.* It is true that there is only one God; but it is a falsehood of the most dangerous kind that Mahomet is the last and the only infallible exponent of God's will. The theory of Mahomet is that God overshadows everything; but the practical issue is, that Mahomet overshadows God, and, worse than that, degrades God. The sins of David and Solomon, which were great, do not in the least affect or compromise the character of our God; for his voice is heard in stern denunciation of the sins of his own people and prophets. But the God of Mahomet is responsible for the adultery of his prophet, for his polygamy, for his rapine and bloodshed, because his voice speaks in favour of all these evil crimes of his servant, and justifies them.