

ship of God to its true form, and to be guided by revelations from heaven through the Angel Gabriel. The Koran—the sacred book of the Moslems—is a collection of these so-called revelations, largely mixed with narratives taken from our Scriptures in a very incorrect form. Abraham is revered as a great prophet, Jesus is acknowledged as one sent from God, but His atonement is denied, the Koran asserting that he did not die on the Cross, but was miraculously taken up to heaven, whence he will come again to judge the world. It also teaches that He said a great prophet should come after Him to reveal more, and that Mohammed is this prophet. The Moslem faith may be shortly stated in these two sentences: “There is no God but God, and Mohammed is His prophet.” The first forbids all idolatry, the second gives divine authority to every statement of the Koran. The practical part consists in prayers, made up of extracts from the Koran, which are neither petitions nor confessions of sin, which must be repeated five times a day. The proper times are called out from the mosque-tops. The worshipper must prepare for prayer by washing, laying aside fine clothes, kneeling and bowing the head upon a prayer rug. Fasts, alms-giving and pilgrimages to Mecca, the birth-place of the Prophet are also enjoined, but their religion has little or no effect upon the morals of its adherents, among whom vice of every kind is prevalent, and polygamy, which is sanctioned in the Koran, has resulted in the degradation of their women and their homes. Lying and cheating are universal, and such language in the way of cursing and reviling as we would be shocked to hear is constantly used by women and girls even of the highest class. Women knowing they are liable to be divorced at any time carry off from their husband's to their father's or brother's houses such money or valuables as they can steal, and every house is divided against itself. A missionary in Persia asked two intelligent Moslems what proportion of a hundred women would destroy the children of their husband's other wives if they had the opportunity, and they unhesitatingly answered, “every one.” Throughout the Turkish Empire any Moslem professing Christianity does so at the risk of his life. The Persian Government is also intolerant, so that, though the people are friendly and willing to receive visits from the missionaries, and in some cases allow their children to attend their schools, very few have become Christians. But the Bible has been translated into the languages of the people, and a spirit of inquiry has been awakened, which will, in time, it is hoped, result in replacing the false faith of Mohammed, by the pure gospel of Jesus Christ.