

OTHER MEN'S BIBLES.

Mohammedan Beliefs Adopted by Modern Christianity.

On a certain day we will call all men to judgment with their respective leader: and whosoever shall have his book given him into his right hand, they shall read their book with joy and satisfaction; and they shall not be wronged a hair. And whosoever hath been blind in this life, shall be also blind in the next, and shall wander more widely from the path of salvation. It wanted little but the unbelievers had tempted thee to swerve from the instructions which we had revealed unto thee, that thou shouldst devise concerning us a different thing; and then would they have taken thee for their friend; and unless we had confirmed thee, thou hadst certainly been very near inclining unto them a little. Then would we surely have caused thee to taste the punishment of death; and thou shouldst not have found any to protect thee against us. The unbelievers had likewise almost caused thee to depart the land, that they might have expelled thee thence; but then should they not have tarried therein after thee except a little while. This is the method of dealing which we have prescribed ourselves in respect to our apostles, whom we have already sent before thee: and thou shalt not find any change in our prescribed method. Regularly perform thy prayer at the declension of the sun, at the first darkness of the night, and the prayer of daybreak; for the prayer of daybreak is borne witness unto by the angels. And watch some part of the night in the same exercise, as a work of supererogation for thee: peradventure thy Lord will raise thee to an honorable station. And say, O Lord, cause me to enter with a favorable entry, and cause me to come forth with a favorable coming forth; and grant me from thee an assisting power. And say, Truth is come and falsehood is vanished: for falsehood is of short continuance. We send down of the Koran that which is a medicine and a mercy unto the true believers, but it shall only increase the perdition of the unjust. When we bestow favors on man, he retireth and withdraweth himself ungratefully from us: but when evil toucheth him, he despaireth of our mercy. Say, Every one acteth after his own manner: but the Lord best knoweth who is most truly directed in his way. They will

ask thee concerning the spirit: answer, The spirit was created at the command of my Lord: but ye have no knowledge given unto you, except a little. If we pleased, we should certainly take away that which we have revealed unto thee; in such case thou couldst not find any to assist thee therein against us, unless through mercy from the Lord; for his favour towards thee has been great. Say, verily if men and genii were purposely assembled, that they might produce a book like this Koran, they could not produce one like unto it, although the one of them assisted the other. And we have variously propounded unto men in this Koran, every kind of figurative argument; but the greater part of men refuse to believe it, merely out of infidelity. And they say, We will by no means believe on thee until thou . . .

. . . have a house of gold; or thou ascend by a ladder to heaven; neither will we believe thy ascending thither alone, until thou cause a book to descend unto us, bearing witness of thee, which we may read. Answer, My Lord be praised! Am I other than a man, sent as an apostle? And nothing hindereth men from believing, when a direction is come unto them, except that they say, Hath God sent a man for His apostle? Answer, If the angels had walked on earth as familiar inhabitants thereof, we had surely sent down unto them from heaven an angel for our apostle. Say, God is a sufficient witness between me and you: for he knoweth and regardeth his servants. Whom God shall direct, he shall be rightly directed: and whom he shall cause to err, thou shalt find none to assist, besides him. And we will gather them together, on the day of resurrection, creeping on their faces, blind, and dumb and deaf: their abode shall be hell; so often as the fire thereof shall be extinguished, we will rekindle a burning flame to torment them. This shall be their reward, because they disbelieve in our signs, and say, When we shall have been reduced to bones and dust, shall we surely be raised new creatures? Do they not perceive that God, who created the heavens and the earth, is able to create other bodies, like their present? And he hath appointed them a limited term: there is no doubt thereof: but the ungodly reject the truth, merely out of unbelief.

From chapter xvii, Sale's translation of Al Koran, inscribed by Mahomet, Founder of Islam.