

Statistical Notes.

World-wide missions relate mainly to these three classes of the unevangelized : the Chinese, the Hindus, and the Mohammedans ; for, taken together, they constitute the bulk of non-Christian human kind, and almost half of the entire race. As to *Islam*, it is well-nigh impossible to realize the vastness of the area it covers. From the Atlantic at Gibraltar and Cape Verde on the west, the domain of the prophet extends across the whole enormous breadth of the Eastern Hemisphere, 140° of longitude, 9000 miles (about three times the distance from New York to San Francisco), to the Moluccas and the Philippines ; and from the Great Wall and the Black Sea on the north, across 70° of latitude, and more than 5000 miles, to the Cape of Good Hope. The Crescent is supreme over all Western Asia, rules about one half the population of Africa and one fourth of India, and, according to some authorities, every tenth Chinese is a Moslem ! The following table will show how widely distributed is this mighty host :

India.....	57,000,000
Turkey in Asia.....	22,000,000
Malaysia.....	20,000,000
China.....	15,000,000
Persia.....	8,000,000
Russian Asia.....	7,000,000
Afghanistan.....	4,000,000
Total Asia.....	133,000,000
The Soudan.....	50,000,000
Northern Africa.....	15,000,000
Scattering.....	5,000,000
Total Africa.....	70,000,000
Russia.....	2,500,000
European Turkey.....	2,300,000
Bulgaria.....	670,000
Other States.....	530,000
Total Europe.....	6,000,000
Total Mohammedans.....	309,000,000

As to Africa, only estimates of population are possible. If we take 160,000,000 as the most probable figure for the inhabitants of this continent, with some good authorities we may put the Moslems at one third of that number, or "more than one half," with Dr. Cust.

For a thousand years the faith of the Koran has been steadily advancing southward, and sways the masses in some measure as far as to the Congo and Zambesi. The great Moslem "university" is located at Cairo, with its 10,000 "students," gathered from remotest points, and hundreds of "teachers."

Several provinces in western and southern China are largely peopled by Mohammedans, as well as some of the great cities on the coast. Peking contains mosques not a few. Not long since a widespread rebellion broke out among this class of the Emperor's subjects, which was only suppressed after years of war and great bloodshed. The "Statesman's Year Book" and other conservative statistical works find 30,000,000 Moslems in China.

The religion of Arabia has brought into captivity the bulk of the Malay race, which so largely inhabits south-eastern Asia, and hence is uppermost in Java, Sumatra, and throughout the Dutch and Spanish East Indies. There is less of bigotry and fanaticism among them in this region, and of late converts by the thousand have been made by the German missionaries.

Islam as a political power is fast waning toward impotence, if not annihilation. Only four considerable governments are left to fight the battles of the prophet—Turkey, Persia, Afghanistan, and Morocco—with an aggregate population of only about 40,000,000, and each one of them is in leading-strings to one or more European nations. Nearly one half of the Moslems are subject to Christian rulers : 63,000,000 to Great Britain, 15,000,000 to the Netherlands, 9,000,000 to Russia, 4,000,000 to France, 4,000,000 to Spain, etc. In this important particular, within this century the way has been wondrously prepared for a grand assault upon Islam from every quarter. And in this generation, through the translation of the Scriptures into Arabic, an unmatched and irresistible weapon has been fashioned. This is the spoken language of nearly 75,000,000, and being the language of the Koran, is sacred to every Moslem. Whoever reads the Koran can now read the Bible in the same tongue. Therefore,

"Onward, Christian soldiers,
"Marching as to war."