

claims of Jesus have already been pronounced upon, and the pious Moslem accepts the verdict of twelve hundred years with impenetrable complacency and hopeless unbelief. Moreover, its history and results have stamped it with infamy. Its name is the synonym of cruelty, lust, injustice, depotism, and religious fanaticism.

"A saintly murderous brood
To carnage and the Koran given,
Who think through unbeliever's blood
Lies their directest path to heaven."

The past few years have witnessed in the political history of Mohammedanism a spectacle of miserable imbecility and humiliation. There has been a strange parallel between Mohammedanism and Romanism. The one has formed the Western and the other the other the Eastern Apostasy. Both rose at the same time. Both have combined the ecclesiastical and temporal powers—the one treading beneath her cruel feet the spiritual Israel, the other treading down the literal Jerusalem. And both have been made objects of Divine judgments at the same time and in the most signal manner. For twelve hundred and sixty years these two "horns" have wasted the church and world. And now, for nearly a century, the Invisible Hand of Judgment has begun "to consume and destroy unto the end." The temporal power has been wrested from the one. The hand of other is feebly clinging to the last vestige of his political authority. And yet, both are showing anything but ecclesiastical imbecility. There is a marked revival of vigor and aggressiveness in the ranks of Islam. The ancient glories of the Caliphate are remembered, and a Pan-Islamic crusade boldly proposed. The trembling throne of the Ottoman ruler is a feeble indication of the real strength of Mohammedanism. While its political seat is still on the European side of the Bosphorus, yet it has less than seven millions of followers in all Europe, and must soon be driven back to its native soil. But Asia contains eighty millions of Mussulmans, and of these nearly forty millions yield reluctant submission to British rule in India, and would be glad at a concerted signal to seek its overthrow. Mohammedanism, too has its machinery for the propagation of the faith. Their famous college in Egypt has *ten thousand students* constantly being trained to go forth as missionaries of the Prophet in every land. It is stated that in the year 1879 as many as one hundred thousand converts were made in China alone. The

number in Central Africa already is estimated at ten millions; and the vain, sensual negro, finds more affinity in its sensuous codes and plausible and indulgent ethics, than in the pure precepts and spiritual hopes of Christianity. There are probably as many as 80,000,000 Mohammedans in Africa to-day, and their number is rapidly increasing.

It will have been inferred already that Christian missions have made slow progress among the Moslem races. There are, however, some cheering facts. The intolerant laws and decrees of Turkey and Persia have been so modified that both foreign teachers and native converts are now protected in most cases. The Mission Press is circulating great quantities of Christian literature in Arabic. The schools in Egypt, Syria and Palestine are being attended by increasing numbers of Moslem children: as many as one thousand Mohammedan girls are now to be found in the Christian schools in Syria alone; and from Persia comes the report of 19 Mussulman converts in Tabriz, and 500 more waiting for the modification of the government decrees, to profess the faith they already have found; while in the other parts of Turkey and Persia there are many similar tokens of encouragement, showing that even under the awful shadow of that Apostasy "there is a remnant at this time according to the election of grace.—*Gospel in all Lands.*

Miss Gordon Cumming, when "at home in Fiji" travelled largely over those beautiful islands. After careful examination of the condition of their inhabitants, she wrote:—

I often wish that some of the cavillers who are for ever sneering at Christian missions could see something of their results in these isles. But first they would have to recall the Fiji of *ten years ago*, when every man's hand was against his neighbour, and the land had no rest from barbarous intertribal wars, in which the foe, without respect of age or sex, were looked upon only in the light of so much beef; the prisoners deliberately fattened for the slaughter; dead bodies dug up that had been buried ten or twelve days, and could only be cooked in the form of puddings; limbs cut off from living men and women, and cooked and eaten in the presence of the victim, who had previously been compelled to dig the oven, and cut the firewood for the purpose;—and this not only in time of war, when such