

the chamber or on the street; 3rd. Fasting, which brings a man to the door of God's palace, and which must extend over one whole month of each year; and 4th. Alms-giving, which will gain him admittance into the very presence of God. There are also four things, inventions of the devil, forbidden, according to the Koran. *Wine*, or anything which disturbs the reason; *games* of hazard; *stones* of worship; and *divination*, or consulting of spirits, which latter part of the Koran is well-worthy the attention of the Christian nations of our own time and continent.

With regard to these doctrines, duties, and things forbidden, one or two remarks will be sufficient. We cannot refrain from admiring many things in Islamism. It speaks clearly and sublimely on the unity, majesty, and power of the one only living and true God. It also does well to inculcate prayer, fasting, and alms-giving. It does well, further, to forbid wine, gambling, image-worship, and spiritualism. On these points Islam reads a lesson of humility to many a Christian country, many a Christian church, many a Christian professor.

How, then, you ask, has not that religion been a blessing to the earth, instead of being a curse? The answer is this:—True religion may be compared to the *Ilala* steamer, which was transported, lately, in pieces, by the hands of 700 Africans, past the Falls of the Zambezi river. There were some portions that would not be missed much if they were lost; other portions, being lost, would render the steamboat useless for its work. It might look well enough, but it would sink in the first storm, if it went out without its helm, or with some important bolts wanting. So with a religious system.

The defects in Islamism are chiefly these: 1st. It teaches *defective views of God*. In anxiety about the majesty of God as a king, the Koran forgets God's fatherhood and the sonship of his people. There are no such words in the Koran as "Our father who art in heaven," nor such a story as that wherein we read "I will arise and go to my Father." Between the God of Mahomet and his creatures there is a great gulf fixed.