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LANDMARKS OF HISTORY.*

II.

IN the second volume of his *Cyclopædia of Universal History*, Dr. Ridpath enters upon the study of what he calls the "Modern World." He treats first the invasion of the barbarian tribes of the North and the establishment of the Gothic kingdoms of Italy, France and Spain. Then in a series of brilliant chapters he discusses the strange phenomena of the rapid spread of that gloomy fanaticism which in a single century extended its baleful shadow from Bokhara to Cordova, from the Indus to the Loire. We quote a brief description of this striking event:

Sweeping like a tornado over Northern Africa on their fiery desert barbs, the cloud of Mussulman cavalry paused but briefly at the Straits of Gibraltar, and planted the crescent on European soil, there to wage deadly conflict with the cross for eight long centuries. Filling the land like an army of locusts, they found slight barriers in the Pyrenees, but swarmed across their rugged heights, till the fertile plains of France, from the Garonne to the Rhone, became subject to the sway of the Caliphs.

It was an hour of most imminent peril to Europe. Its future destiny was in the balance. It was the crisis of fate for the entire West. Would the conquering tide roll on and overwhelm the nascent nationalities that were everywhere struggling into life, or was the period of its ebb at hand? Should European cities bristle with a grove of minarets or with a forest of spires? Should the superstitions of the mufti and the Saracenic mosque

* *Cyclopædia of Universal History*: Being an account of the principal events in the career of the human race from the beginnings of civilization to the present time. From recent and authentic sources. Complete in three volumes. Imp. 8vo, 2,364 pages. By JOHN CLARK RIDPATH, LL.D., Prof. of History in DePauw University; author of *A History of the United States*, *The Life and Work of Garfield*, etc. Profusely illustrated with maps, charts, sketches, portraits, and diagrams. The Jones Brothers Publishing Co., Cincinnati

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