

hold secret communion with our minds : but we also find in them food and clothing, and what is more, powers to counteract and remove the diseases to which mankind is subject.

Botany may be considered the elder sister of the sciences. The first account of plants may be traced to the history of the creation. It was on the third day of this great work that God said ; "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself." * * * It is recorded that Adam gave names to all the beasts of the field and fowls of the air : and Milton imagines that to Eve was assigned the pleasant task of giving names to flowers and numbering the tribes of plants. When our first parents as a punishment for their disobedience, are about to leave this delightful Eden, Eve, in the language of the poet, with bitter regret exclaims :

"Must I leave thee Paradise,
* * * O flowers
That never will in other climate grow,
* * * which I bred up with tender hand
From the first opening bud, and gave ye names
Who now shall rear ye to the sun, and
Rank your tribes !"

Almost from that time until the present the progress of botanical knowledge may be traced, and of all sciences perhaps no one is settled on a firmer foundations than that of Botany. The improvements of future years we are not able to anticipate ; but it is probable that as discoveries and improvements are made they will cluster around the principles already established. Our spirit of government is highly favorable to the promotion and dissemination of knowledge, and may we not justly be proud, knowing that we possess such spirit as pervaded Europe, which may now boast of many stars that irradiate her firmament of letters, shining with brilliant lustre amid the surrounding darkness of ignorance.

MOHAMMED.

Over thirteen centuries ago was born one whom destiny chose to change the social condition of almost one-half of the globe. What would have been the state of the different nations now professing the Mohammedan faith had Mohammed's influence been withheld, is uncertain. In all probability some would have remained in their former idolatry, while others would have been converted to the Christian faith. Born in the year 570, and possessing no extraordinary talents, Mohammed commenced his career when about twenty-three

years old. He was descended from the Sabæan priests, but according to the traditions of his followers was wholly uneducated. How it was that he could exert such an influence, and establish so firmly his dogmas, has been a subject of wonder to many, but when all the circumstances are taken into consideration, the wonder of his achievement is partially if not altogether lost.

The religion of Arabia, at that time, was not one united system, as in some other countries, but many sects existed which differed essentially in their salient points. Yet persecution was unknown and absolute toleration prevailed. Each one believed what was most convenient, leaving his neighbor to do the same. Sabæanism took all the shapes possible. Magian idolatry from Persia, Judaism, and even the Christian faith, formed some of the principal forms. On the continent of Europe, the dark cloud of ignorance and vice was beginning to cover the canopy. The Church, at strife with the barbarians, and divided among themselves, could turn their attention in no other direction. The social condition of his own people was about the lowest possible, possessing no culture, and believing in what most excited their curiosity, they could readily abandon their old forms and customs for any new and strange ones which would not inconvenience them. All his followers were to receive full atonement, while disbelievers were to be condemned to eternal misery. By dint of persuasion and force of arms, his band was rapidly increased until it was an impossibility for any to withstand his might. Predestinarianism, one of his doctrines, gave rise to fatalism, and his soldiers would face the greatest danger with the utmost indifference. They also possessed another incentive : all who fell on the field of battle were to receive immediate transmission to paradise. Thus by disunion on the part of his antagonists, and the greatest union among his followers, he was able rapidly to extend his principles of religion. Had he lived in a time when the church was united and standing upon a firm basis, no doubt he would have received a check which would have blotted out the evil for ever. As it was he lived at a time, and about the only time, when it was favorable to advance such erroneous principles with the least molestation.

—J.

"How seldom it happens that we find editors bred to the business," said one friend to another. "Very ; and have you not often remarked how seldom the business is bread to editors ?" replied the other.