

age to appear on the streets in the latter part of the afternoon ; they keep them concealed and safe from the hands of the Mohammedans.

X. There is another feature in Islamism, and that is, their aggressive spirit. Do not suppose, friends of the Bible Society, you are dealing with a dead population. They have missionaries in Africa. When Stanley wrote his letter to the *London Telegraph*, describing his interview with King Mtesa, who had lately been converted to Islamism, and it was now proposed to bring missionaries to convert him to Christianity, he called for help to the Christian world. That letter was translated into Arabic, and they were raising money to send missionaries to Uganda, when the Russian war broke out, and the whole thing came to naught. Such is the spirit that they possess ; they still believe in propagating Islamism in the world. These are some of the difficulties. But, briefly, on the other hand, there are certain favouring circumstances :—

1. It is not a little thing that the whole Mohammedan world believe in the unity of God. The Mohammedan confession of faith, learned by heart by every Moslem, is this, "There is no God but God, and Mohammed is his apostle," which Gibbon has styled "an eternal truth and an eternal lie." The idea that there is one God, and that the idols of the heathen are vanity, is a source of tremendous power in that system. It unites them everywhere ; they all believe in a God in contradistinction to the idols of the heathen ; and when they say "one God," they mean that there is an everlasting, eternal, almighty, omniscient, and protecting God. They have one hundred names or titles of God, which they repeat with the greatest reverence. They write them in letters of gold along the cornices of their saloons, mosques, residences, and public buildings, and always speak the name of God with reverence.

2. Again, the Koran distinctly declares that the Old and New Testaments are the word of God. I could repeat to you scores of passages from the Koran which testify to that fact more or less directly. One of them is this : "Ye are grounded upon nothing until you observe the *Tourah* and the *Enjeel*," i. e., the Old Testament and the Gospel. Mohammed distinctly declared in the Koran that the promise of God was one in the Old Testament, in the New Testament, and in the Koran.

3. I knew of a Mohammedan Governor who bastinadoed a Mohammedan for having cursed the name of Christ. They believe Christ is the greatest of all the prophets, and call him "Sayidina Aïresa," our Lord Jesus, just as they say "our lord Moses and our lord Mohammed." They regard all Christians with favour. They say, Christians and Jews are "*ehel kitab*," or people of a book ; and hence, they are better than abject idolaters and heathen.

4. They are intense iconoclasts and haters of idolatry. Explorers and scholars in Syria and Palestine do not find a Greek or Roman statue without the head broken off or the features defaced. There never was such an iconoclastic system as Islamism ; and the Christian churches filled with pictures were either destroyed or turned into mosques. The Moslems have spread over Northern Africa ; they have swept idolatry from the face of the earth wherever they have prevailed ; they have destroyed it in parts of India ; they are attempting to destroy it in parts of China ; they hate idolatry.

5. The Moslems believe in prayer. With the majority of them it is a mere outward form. They pray five times a day. A Moslem who was at my house, said to me, after he heard family prayers, "Do you suppose God heard that ?" "Certainly," said I, "or I would not have offered prayer." He said, "I never thought of that before." He had been praying five times a day all his life, repeating certain words, with no idea that God hears prayer. There are times when the Moslems believe in prayer. When the country is threatened with drought and famine, the Moslems go outside the city and raise up their hands and pray : "We ask forgiveness, O mighty God ! we ask help merciful God !" and they repeat that by the hour, calling on God for mercy.

6. They believe in preaching. In every mosque is a pulpit, a narrow stair-