

learning emitting scarcely a ray of light in all its domain, the Moham-
 medan Arabs were cultivating science and philosophy with ardor and
 success. When the capitals of Christian Europe were inhabited by
 barbarous hordes, the Court of Bagdad evinced remarkable lustre and
 liberality, and opened asylums to the learned of every land. Literary
 relics found in conquered countries were brought to the foot of the throne.
 Latin, Greek, and Persian literature was translated into the Arabic.
 The Court itself was made up of teachers, translators, commentators,
 and philosophers. Schools were founded and libraries established in every
 considerable town. There was one college at Bagdad that had six thou-
 sand pupils and professors. Institutions of learning were liberally
 endowed. The revenue of kingdoms was expended in public buildings
 and fine arts. The Arabs excelled in mathematics and astronomy,
 architecture and agriculture, while they cultivated with success a long
 list of the arts and sciences among the most valued at the present day.
 Speaking of the earlier sovereigns of Bagdad, Hallam says;

" Their splendid palaces, their numerous guards, their treasures of
 gold and silver, the populousness and wealth of their cities, formed a
 striking contrast to the rudeness and poverty of the Western nations. In
 their Court, learning, which the first Moslems had despised as unwarlike,
 or rejected as profane, was held in honor. The Khalif Almamun was
 distinguished for his patronage of letters; the philosophical writings of
 Greece were eagerly sought and translated; the stars were numbered;
 the course of the planets was measured; the Arabians improved upon
 the science they borrowed, and returned it with abundant interest to
 Europe in the communication of numeral figures and the intellectual
 language of algebra " (" Middle Ages," 552).

The Moors, a people of Arabian origin, that inhabited the countries
 now called Morocco and Fez—once known as Mauritania—formed the
 channel through which the learning and civilization of the Arabs, the
 seeds of which came from Alexandria and the East, travelled into Europe.
 The Moors conquered Spain, and held it nearly seven centuries. They
 established a magnificent empire, and for centuries were the most en-
 lightened people on the face of the globe. While the greater portion of
 the Western world was plunged in the darkest ignorance, the Moors of
 Spain were cultivating those arts and sciences which expand the mind,
 refine the taste, and give polish to society. " When Europe was hardly
 more enlightened than Caffraria is now, the Saracens were cultivating
 and ever creating science. Their triumphs in philosophy, mathematics,
 astronomy, chemistry, medicine, proved to be more durable, and there-
 fore more important than their military actions had been " (Draper's
 " Intellect. Devel." 306). Some idea of the magnificence of the Saracenic
 Empire may be formed from the statement of a Moorish author regard-
 ing the city of Cordova, the capital of Andalusia. It contained, he
 informs us, 200,000 houses, 600 mosques, and 900 public baths. An-
 other writer says it had 80 public schools, 50 hospitals, and 80,000 shops