

and extent of Islam in Africa and elsewhere are bold and startling. They are too general and sweeping to be at once accepted as facts. He divides the continent into two nearly equal portions, the northern and the southern. "The *northern half* has been attached to the Arabian prophet; all its roads lead to Mecca." It consists of three zones: North Africa, the Sahara, and the Soudan, with an estimated population of 18,123,846; 2,500,000, and 83,800,000 respectively. "These three zones, which contain considerably more than half the population of the continent, are thoroughly Islamic." "The whole northern half of Africa is as thoroughly Islamic as Turkey or Persia, if not more so." On the basis of the estimated total population of the northern lobe of the continent "its Moslem population is over rather than under 75,000,000," while the strength of Christianity is only "35,777" souls; including "Romanists less than half a million western Christians." The writer states also that Islam has made large advances in the *southern half* of the continent.

We have not space to follow him in the details. "In a word," he says, "the northern lobe of Africa is covered by Islam, with mere traces of Paganism and touches of Christianity. The southern wing of Africa is covered by Paganism, with a considerable area of Islam in the north, and a considerable area of Christianity in the south." "Islam has rendered void the Christianity that once reigned from the Pillars of Hercules to the Indian Ocean; and going beyond, has, century by century, pushed its way across the Sahara, throughout the Soudan and down the east coast, until more than half the continent is in its grasp. The grasp to-day is as fresh, warm and greedy as ever."

The writer next discusses "what have been some of the great elements of the religious strength and weakness of Islam and Christianity during the centuries of their paralleled history,"

and finally considers "the radical difference between Christianity and Islam," and "some special conditions of the conflict between Islam and Christianity in Africa."

Dark as the picture is made to appear, there is still solid ground for hope that Islam will never rule Africa. Africa, in the marvellous providence of God, is now pushed to the front, and is destined in the near future to be the arena of a sharp and decisive conflict between Islam and Christianity. In this conflict Islam will be shorn of many of the elements of its past success; while Christianity will possess new and powerful auxiliaries.

The sword and the slave trade have been the right arm of Islam, but the days of their dominance in Africa are numbered. Although the most difficult and stubborn of all false religions to subdue, Islam cannot, we believe, withstand Christianity in a fair fight. Now after 1,200 years of contact, for the first time Islam and Christianity are to meet face to face for a trial of faith on an open, fair, broad field. For the first time it is to be mainly a trial of *moral* strength.

The European nations, which have planted their authority and civilization in the centre of Africa, and have gone there to stay, will not long leave Islam to propagate itself by sword and the slave trade as in the past. The Congo Free State—the very garden of the continent—is already guaranteed religious liberty. These two religions span the continent. If Islam move southward it will be because it has moral power for conquest, which we know it does not possess and never did.

Surely, when the Mohammedan power in Europe is crumbling to pieces; when no Mohammedan empire or people anywhere is rising into significant position or influence, and when the leading Protestant powers of Europe are running a sharp race for the possession of African territory, and the extension of Christian civilization over the best portions of the