

east wind brought the locusts." It would, certainly; for Mecca lies almost in a line directly east of the first Nile cataract, where Egypt ends and Nubia begins. Noting this fact, it can be seen at once how fitting the figure in the Book of Revelation which compares the Saracens to locusts. "*And he opened the bottomless pit, and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace, and the sun and the air was darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit: and there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth.*" Rev. ix. 2, 3.

This country, an important point to Mahommedanism, is also, in the opinion of naturalists, the native country of the horse, which, at any rate, there attains to the highest degree of spirit and swiftness, so that in comparison with this Arab breed, the horses of Europe stand only, as they say in the east, in the *tenth* rank. The importance of this point will be noted hereafter; in the meantime let us note again how fitting, therefore, the words of Revelation—"And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared for the battle."

THE PEOPLE.

Having glanced at the country, let us notice now the people. Various wild tribes and races had their home in Arabia, but the descendants of Ishmael, Abraham's oldest son, came at last to the front as the predominant race in the peninsula, where they now hold undisputed sway. From their father, Abraham, they inherited noble qualities. Like him, they were once believers in the true God; they are, like him, given to hospitality. The stranger is always welcome to the tent of the Arab, who salutes him with, "*Salaam,*"—*peace*—placing his right hand first on his head, then on his mouth, then on his heart, signifying that as long as the stranger is under his care, he devotes to him his head, his tongue, and his heart. But from their mother, Hagar, and her Egyptian connections, the Ishmaelites imbibed an element of evil, and sunk ultimately into abject idolatry. The religion of the Arabs, when Christ was born, consisted in the worship of the heavenly bodies, and of idols of wood and stone. Their