

a special hatred of "the eccentricity, hypocrisy, and wild ravings of advanced Sûfis" Mohammedan Saints, or mystics, whose zeal, doubtless, was not always according to knowledge. But the pose, the attitude, the superiority, remains the same: "I am Sir Oracle". These Sûfis, we are told, "he successfully combats with their own weapons, using the whole mystic terminology in ridicule of mysticism itself." Wherefore, and from such expressions as "a debased and ignorant clergy," used, in comparing Omar with Voltaire, we gather, incidentally, that the writer's sympathies are rather with the poet than with the other party. And, to that extent, at least, he, like most other guides, is to be distrusted.

But let us hear Omar, himself, since such papers as these are, and must be, the merest introductory preliminaries to a study of the works treated of. At best, also, we can only quote at random, almost, in fact, as the book chances to open. Such chance, at least, is, or should be consistent with Omar's own philosophy.

"Come, fill the cup, and in the fire of Spring
 "Your winter garment of Repentance fling:
 "The Bird of Time has but a little way
 "To flutter and the Bird is on the wing."

"Let us eat and drink, for to-morrow we die." What does the other Tentmaker, Paul or Tarsus, say of such? "Whose condemnation is just": for they condemn themselves. "Having no hope and without God in the world."

"Ah, make the most of what we yet may spend
 Before we too into the Dust descend;
 "Dust into Dust, and under Dust, to lie,
 "Sans wine, sans song, sans singer, and—sans end."

"Having no hope" *Homo, cum in honore esset non intellexit; comparatus est iumentis insipientibus, et similis factus est illis.* One translation gives: "The beasts that perish."

Let us hear Omar again, and see if, once more, we can compare his utterances with those of that other, and greater Tentmaker we have listened to, already.

' For I remember stopping by the way
 "To watch a Potter thumping his wet clay:
 "And with its all obliterated Tongue
 "It murmured—"Gently Brother, gently pray!"