

# THE MISSIONARY REVIEW OF THE WORLD.

VOL. XVII. No. 10.—*Old Series*.—OCTOBER.—VOL. VII. No. 10.—*New Series*.

## PRESENT-DAY FLASHLIGHTS UPON ISLAM.

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Islam is one of the surprises of history. Its origin and development are full of dramatic incident, rapid movement, and amazing achievement. It has puzzled the philosophical historian, and now presents an almost insoluble problem to the missionary. It is full of fascination to the student of religions, and is one of the most serious and impressive providential facts which the Church of Christ must face in her modern missionary campaign.

Missions to Moslems have not received the attention they demand. It is high time that they should be written in large characters upon the programme of world-wide missions. It is not to the credit of Christianity with its superb resources and its wealth of Divine promises, that its plans, even at the present hour, for the conversion of Islam are so meagre and inadequate, and its grasp of the problem so feeble and ineffective.

The genesis and growth of Mohammedanism are among the deep things of Providence. Next to Judaism, although in entirely another sense and along different lines, it may be regarded as a religion with a purpose, and it presents several features of special interest to both the historian and student of missions. Among them may be mentioned its peculiar mission as a religious phenomenon, its vigorous movement and aggressive policy, its easy domination of corrupt and enervated forms of Christianity, its unyielding attitude toward Christian missionary effort, its prolonged and inflexible intolerance of all apostasy from its ranks, its marvellous adaptation of itself to the religious instincts and the human weaknesses of Orientals. It is still, even at the present day, a Goliath among religions, a "fighter on the path of God," and although its military power and political supremacy have been so seriously restricted, it is still a dauntless antagonist in the field of religious conflict. It is to meet its David in Christianity; its mighty weapons will yield, as of old, to the smooth stones from the brook.