

our persecutors, and we are but two.—“Fear not, God is with us, said Mahommed.” His courage and presence of mind saved him from capture and death; for wheeling the camel, upon which he rode in a moment, he shouted Soraka in a tremendous voice. Soraka’s horse startled, either by the noise or at the camel wheeling in his path, stumbled and fell and threw his rider, stunning him with the fall. Soraka’s superstition triumphed over his courage—he was converted by the accident, which he doubtless believed was a prodigy, and asked the Prophet’s pardon, which was readily, and you may be sure thankfully granted. Mahommed met no further interruption in his journey until he reached the precincts of the city of Mecca.

This event is the great epoch in Mahommedan chronology. It is denominated the Hegira or flight; it occurred in the year A. D. 622.

Thus we are brought to the fourth period of the Prophet’s history; to wit the Hegira. He was met at a short distance from Medina by five hundred of the inhabitants, who hailed him with joy as their Prophet and King. Mounted upon a camel, shaded by a canopy of palm leaves, with a turban unfolded as a standard, and surrounded by the bravest of his followers, he made his public entry into the city. His first act in Medina was to build a mosque. Next he consummated his marriage with Aysha, the daughter of the faithful Abubekir, a girl of nine years of age. His next act was a master-stroke of policy—to wit, the institution of the *Armed Fraternity*. By the laws of this association a refuge from Mecca was coupled with an auxiliary of Medina, as brothers in arms.—This kept peace among his followers, who otherwise would have not only ruined Islamism but themselves, with their disputes about pre-eminence.

The leaders of the French revolution, who were disciples of Savery, and of course true Mussulmans (as was the first Bonaparte) copied Mahommed in this, and were but too successful. Thus, from a fugitive, Mahommed became a Monarch. He combined in his own person the civil and religious power; he was leader of his army, judge of his people, and pastor of his flock. Mahommed, being now firmly established in power,

gave his subjects the first prohibitory liquor law, by legal enactment upon record, and a real stringent one it was.

We are almost tempted to think in view of this fact, that Neal Dow must have partly copied Mahommed’s institute, and called it “The Maine Liquor Law.” We wish he had given the whole of the Mahommedan statute unabridged, and then we would have had not only a prohibitory liquor law but also a law against card playing and gaming of every kind. Mahommed was, perhaps, the greatest total abstinence man that ever lived. He has made more total abstinence men than any other; nay, more than all others, ten thousand times told. This was the best thing about him. It would have been well for Christian rulers had they followed his example in this respect. It is impossible in a short lecture to give anything like a detailed account of Mahommed’s wars during the last ten years of his life; that is, from his settlement at Medina. Suffice it to say, that historians reckon twenty seven expeditions, which he personally commanded, nine of which were regular pitched battles, independent of others conducted by his generals. Thus, in “a few years by the success of his arms, notwithstanding he sometimes came off with the worst, he considerably raised his credit and power.”

In the seventh year of the Hegira he besieged a colony of Arab Jews, who owned a town and strong castle in one of the Oases of the desert, and took the place after being several times repulsed. After the capture of the town and castle he took up his quarters at the house of Hareth, one of the chief of the inhabitants. Zind, Hareth’s daughter, while preparing a meal for the conqueror, to be revenged upon him for the death of her brother, inserted a quantity of poison in a shoulder of mutton, which she served up at the table. Bashor, a companion of Mahommed who had partaken freely, was seized with convulsions, and died on the spot. Mahommed