

were borne back in triumph by an Anglo-Indian army, in the memory of every one who listens to me; when this Mahmoud was about starting on one of his twelve expeditions to India, he demanded of Ismael, a tributary Seljukian chief, who dwelt in the territory of Bokhara, "How many men he could furnish for military service?" "If you send," replied Ismael, "one of these arrows into our camp, fifty thousand of your servants will mount on horseback." "And if that number," continued Mahmoud, "be not sufficient?" "Send this second arrow to the horde of Balik, and you will find fifty thousand more." "But," said the Gaznevide monarch, "If I should stand in need of the whole force of your kindred tribes?" "Despatch my bow," was the last reply of Ismael, "and as it is circulated around, the summons will be obeyed by two hundred thousand horsemen." Such was the progress made by this race, in numbers and power, that after the overthrow of the Gaznevide dynasty by the Seljukian Turcomans, we find them, in the year 1050, attacking the Roman Empire in the East. Gibbon says, that the Empire was assaulted by an unknown race of barbarians, who united the Scythian valour with the fanaticism of new proselytes, and the arts and riches of a powerful monarchy. The myriads of Turkish horse overspread a frontier of six hundred miles from Tauris to Arzeroum, and the blood of 130,000 Christians was a grateful sacrifice to the Arabian Prophet. Only about 250 years before this, in the year 721, the Riding nations, the followers of the false prophet of Mecca, had possessed themselves of the whole southern shore of the Mediterranean, from Palestine to the pillars of Hercules; had crossed over into and conquered almost the whole of the Spanish Peninsula, and advanced into France so far as Tours, when in one of the decisive battles of the world, the conflict of Tours, the Mahometans were utterly routed by Charles Martel. The fight lasted for seven days, and the contemporaneous historians declare that 350,000 of the Mahometan invaders perished on the field, under the iron maces of the gigantic Teutons, brought by Martel from beyond the Rhine to aid the Frankish Monarch. From the Hegira, almost to this day, this restless race of horsemen has troubled the Christian world, whether under the name of Arab, Moor, Turk, Turcoman or Ottoman, the last bloody repulse having been given to them by John Sobieski under the walls of Vienna in 1683. As we shall see hereafter, the history of this race is most intimately connected with that of the horse—Arabia being the country in which that animal, until very modern times, has attained the highest standard of excellence. With respect to this nation of horsemen—the Saracens and their successors, the Turks and the Ottomans—there are some most extraordinary prophecies in the Revelations of St. John; and so perfectly borne out by the event, that it may not be out of place to notice them. The words of the prophecy are these:—"And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth—and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power—and it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing—neither any tree—but only those men who have not the seal of God in their foreheads—and to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months." A verse or two after, the sacred writer continues:—"And the shapes of the locusts were like horses prepared unto battle, and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold—and their faces were as the faces of men—and they had hair as the hair of women—and their teeth were as the teeth of lions—and they had breast-plates, as it were breast-plates of iron—and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle." "One woe is past, and behold there come two more woes hereafter." And then we have the further description:—"And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand—and I heard the number of them—and thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them—having breast-plates of fire, and of jacinth and brimstone—and the heads

of the horses were as the heads of lions, and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone—by these three was the third part of men killed by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone which issued out of their mouths."

The locusts spoken of in the introductory verse allude, without doubt, to the clouds of Saracen horsemen which, like those insects in number and in the ravages which they made, overspread the whole boundary of the Roman Empire in the East for upwards of 150 years. The prophecy with respect to the green grass, the green things and trees, that no one should do them any injury, was most remarkably verified; for the Caliph, Hassan Abubeker, the successor of Mahomet, when his army was about to start on the Persian campaign, issued an order to his army in these words:—"Destroy no palm trees, nor burn any fields of corn; cut down no fruit trees, nor do any mischief to cattle, only such as you kill to eat." The order concludes:—"You will find another sort of people that belong to the synagogue of Satan, who have shaven crowns, be sure you cleave their skulls." The Bedawee followers of the prophets especially detested monks. The five months during which this torment was to last, may be explained in two different ways—five prophetic months are exactly 151 years, or it may mean the five months of each summer, during which the supply of forage in the field enabled large armies of cavalry to be kept in motion. The crowns like gold, may refer to the superb jewelled turbans, invariably worn by the Saracen warriors; their faces are described as being like the faces of men—that is, fierce and bearded, while their long hair was carefully preserved, and plaited like the hair of women. Their breast-plates were like breast-plates of iron—an evident allusion to the shirts of bright steel mail universally worn by the Saracen and Turkish cavalry, to be seen to this day on the persons of the Circassian and other Eastern horsemen. The sound of their wings as the sound of many chariots, is a most poetic and graphic description of the noise which accompanies the rapid advance of a large body of cavalry. The vast numbers of the Saracen and Turkish hordes is expressed by the indefinite expression, "two hundred thousand thousand." Scarlet, blue and yellow, fire, jacinth and brimstone, have ever been the favourite colours of the sons of Islam. The fire, smoke, and brimstone which issued out of their mouths, by which the third part of men were slain, may, and doubtless does, allude to the fire-arms, their coming into general use, and which the Ottoman Turks constructed of unusual size.

(To be continued.)

Observations on the Leafing and Flowering of Plants.

It is exceedingly desirable that a system of observations should be established throughout Canada, similar to those which are now being carried on with such curious results in the neighbouring States, having for their object the leafing and flowering of plants. The Canadian Institute would be glad to receive from any of their members or others, any assistance in the shape of observations that they may be able to afford; the more numerous the observers, the better results may be expected, as it is only by comparing several observations from different places, that errors and variations arising from locality may be eliminated. In order to assist those who may be willing to commence such observations, the following list of native and naturalized plants has been prepared, containing principally those which are to be found in the neighbourhood of Toronto, and only those which are sufficiently common to be readily observed. The times of flowering have been added, as far as known to the writer, they may of course vary slightly. The list is by no means a complete one,