

pressing it from the north, not only in Europe, but also, and to a greater degree, in Asia, by its conquest of Khiya and Bokara.* England is raising up in India a rampart of free institutions that blocks up further hopes of progress towards the east whither Islam would naturally seek to retreat. Strangely significant it is, indeed, that this very year, so ominous to Mahomedan power, our Queen was proclaimed Empress of India, in the city of Delhi, the ancient capital of the Mahomedan empire in India. From the west, Greece and the Slavonic nations are pressing eastward the free institutions of Europe to the very walls of Constantinople, so that now we may safely conclude that the power of Mahomedanism, to all intents, on the soil of Europe, is swiftly expiring. From the side of Africa, where Mahomedanism was once strong, encroachments are steadily advancing hostile to its political supremacy. Egypt is virtually independent of Constantinople; and the Suez canal, with the Christian missions now being established in Eastern Africa, are cutting quietly, but quickly, the last link that held poor Africa tributary to Islam. What a magnificent commentary on that single verse in Revelation that contains the history of the decline, decay, and downfall of Mahomedanism as a political power. "And the sixth angel poured out his vial on the great river Euphrates, and the water thereof dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared."

2. Mahomedanism as a religious system is quite a different matter. We know that the loss of the temporal power of the Pope has, to a large degree, tended to strengthen his spiritual empire over the souls of men. For years Islam, as a political system, has had no place or power in India, and yet to-day it is as difficult to convert Mahomedans there to the faith of Christ, as it is in Constantinople. There is no royal or rapid road to the conversion of nations to the faith of Christ. Turkey may die to-morrow as a political power, and the Turks will be as exclusive, as bitter, as hostile to Christ, as they were when they first entered Europe. "This

* This article was written and in type before the declaration of war by Russia.