

Sultan as their spiritual head ; and this political unity is one of the great difficulties in the way.

II. A second difficulty is this, that in that system there is almost an entire divorce between morality and religion. It is a ritualistic system. If those who are advocating ritualism in the Christian Church would see the natural outgrowth and fruitage of a thoroughly developed ritualism, let them look at the system of Islam. It is the most compacted and consistent ritualistic system in the world. It is all rites and ceremonies. The pilgrimage to Mecca, the prayers five times a day, the fast of Ramadan, the reading of the Koran, alms given as a meritorious rite—everything, indeed, pertaining to the Moslem is part of a religious ceremonial by which he is to merit everlasting life and paradise. But a man may be a highway robber, a murderer and an outlaw, and yet be a saint. I knew a Mohammedan pasha that stepped down from his seat and kissed the hand of a man on trial for highway robbery and murder, because he was a dervish and had been known to repeat the name of God more times in the day than any other man.

III. Another difficulty is their intense devotion to the Koran. Many Mohammedans claim that the Koran was uncreated and co-eternal with God. That was denounced as a heresy ; but there are Moslems who hold it to this day. They look upon it with almost idolatrous reverence. They never take it up without pressing it to their lips ; they will never hold it below their waist ; they will never lay it on the floor ; and tens of thousands commit it to memory from beginning to end. It is a model of Arabic poetry. The Koran has been carried wherever the religion of Islam has gone, from Sierra Leone to Peking. There are two hundred thousand Mohammedans to-day in the city of Peking, in China, and they all have this same Koran. They will not allow it to be printed for fear it will be contaminated by printer's ink. It will not do, they say, to bring any pressure to bear on the written name of God in printing-presses. But everywhere there are thousands of scribes copying it all over the Mohammedan world, just as the scribes wrote the Old Testament in the time of Christ. They attach to the Koran this idea, that it is a book that *came down* from heaven—not that it was written there. Their word for "inspiration" is "inzal," or sending down, that is, that it was written by the finger of God, brought down by the angel Gabriel, and given to Mohammed, just exactly as it was written in Arabic, and thus the Arabic language is the language of heaven. Their strong attachment to the Koran is something that must be borne in mind by those who preach the gospel among the Mohammedans.

IV. Another element is the Ishmaelitic intolerance of the system. There is not one word in the Koran which bids the Mohammedan to love his neighbour as himself. They are bidden to hate all but themselves. In the Mohammedan university at Cairo—a missionary university with ten thousand pupils and three hundred teachers, they offer every evening a missionary prayer, saying : "O Allah, destroy the infidels, make their wives desolate and their children orphans ; give their women, their brothers, their friends, their property, and everything they have, as booty to the Moslems, O Lord of all creatures." That is their idea of a missionary prayer. Their religion is Ishmaelitic in its basis and Arab in its foundation.

V. Another of the difficulties in Islam is polygamy. Polygamy is legalized. I have never heard a Mohammedan defend it on social grounds ; I have never known one to defend it because it promotes the happiness of the family or family discipline ; but they say it is divinely enjoined in the Koran. It is the curse of the Eastern world. You ask a Mohammedan if God created more than one woman in Paradise ? He replies "No." "How then," we ask them, "is every Mohammedan to be supplied with four wives, if in your country the number of male and female children is always just about equal ?" It is either by stealing or buying them from other places—taking them captive in war. That must in time come to an end. But under the present state of things, polygamy, infanticide, and the military conscription, are destroying