

Arab power, they went forth, like a swarm of locusts, as was remarked at the outset, covering the earth, so that, within one hundred years after the flight from Mecca, the arms and the rule of Mahomet's successors extended from India to the Atlantic Ocean. But, as might be expected from the doctrines of Islam, degeneracy, effeminacy, and vice, wrought at length the ruin of the Caliphate. Then arose, as the apostles of Mahomet, the Turkish Sultans, a people issuing from the mountains that guard the sources of the Euphrates, whose rise, progress, and mission, is figured forth in these awful words of the seer at Patmos: "Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates. And the four angels were loosed and the number of the army were two hundred thousand thousand, and thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and of brimstone; and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions, and out of their mouths issued fire, and smoke, and brimstone." These new and terrible missionaries of Islam advanced into eastern Europe, subdued Greece, took Constantinople, one of the Sultans swearing that he would feed a measure of oats to his horse on the altar of St. Peter's in Rome. The wave, in God's great mercy, was driven back as it struck the walls of Vienna; the overflowing, destroying tide of the Euphrates was there arrested in its westward course; and since then the waters have been slowly subsiding.

THE DESTINY OF ISLAM.

Can we penetrate into the future so as to read what the destiny of Islam ultimately is to be? We can see the future but darkly, dimly, through a thick mist. Let us learn, however, to distinguish between Mahommedanism as a *political power*, and Islam as a *religious creed*.

1. As to the former, it is not difficult to read the nearing issue. We can see plainly that as a political power, Mahommedanism is not only sick, but dying, and now about dead. The free institutions of Europe are like a girdle of fire encircling it, and scorching it up into narrower and still narrower limits. Russia is persistently