

# THE CANADA CHRISTIAN MONTHLY.

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MAY, 1877.

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## Editorial.

### THE MERITS AND DEMERITS OF ISLAM.

(First Article.)

**L**IVING, as we do, in a country where Christianity has got the upper hand, we are too apt to forget that there are countries where our religion has strong, terrible, unconquered, and we almost feel at times, unconquerable rivals. We do not refer here to low, degraded forms of idolatry. We refer to systems of faith that are, some of them older than, and others nearly as old as Christianity, and which are strong in the affections of their people, and fortified by the learning, and wealth, and zeal, and power, of their fanatical adherents.

What are these systems? There are, to-day, face to face with Christianity, and presenting to its claims the most determined opposition, three great systems of religious faith—Judaism, a system once good and great, but now out of date and out of joint in the upward progress of God's church, numbering about 7,000,000 of people; Islam or Mohammedanism, a system of political Unitarianism, numbering about 120,000,000 of followers; and Hindooism, in its two great branches of Brahminism and Buddhism, a system of pantheistic idolatry, which to-day stretches from the Ganges to the utmost confines of China, holding in bondage some 500,000,000 of the human race.