

**STUDIES
IN A MOSQUE**

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Studies in a Mosque by Stanley Lane-Poole

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STANLEY LANE-POOLE

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IN A MOSQUE**

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BY

STANLEY LANE-POOLE

*Author of the Life of Viscount Stratford de Redcliffe; Cairo: Sketches of its History
Monuments and Social Life; The Art of the Saracens of Egypt;
The Moors in Spain; The Barbary Corsairs, etc*

SECOND EDITION

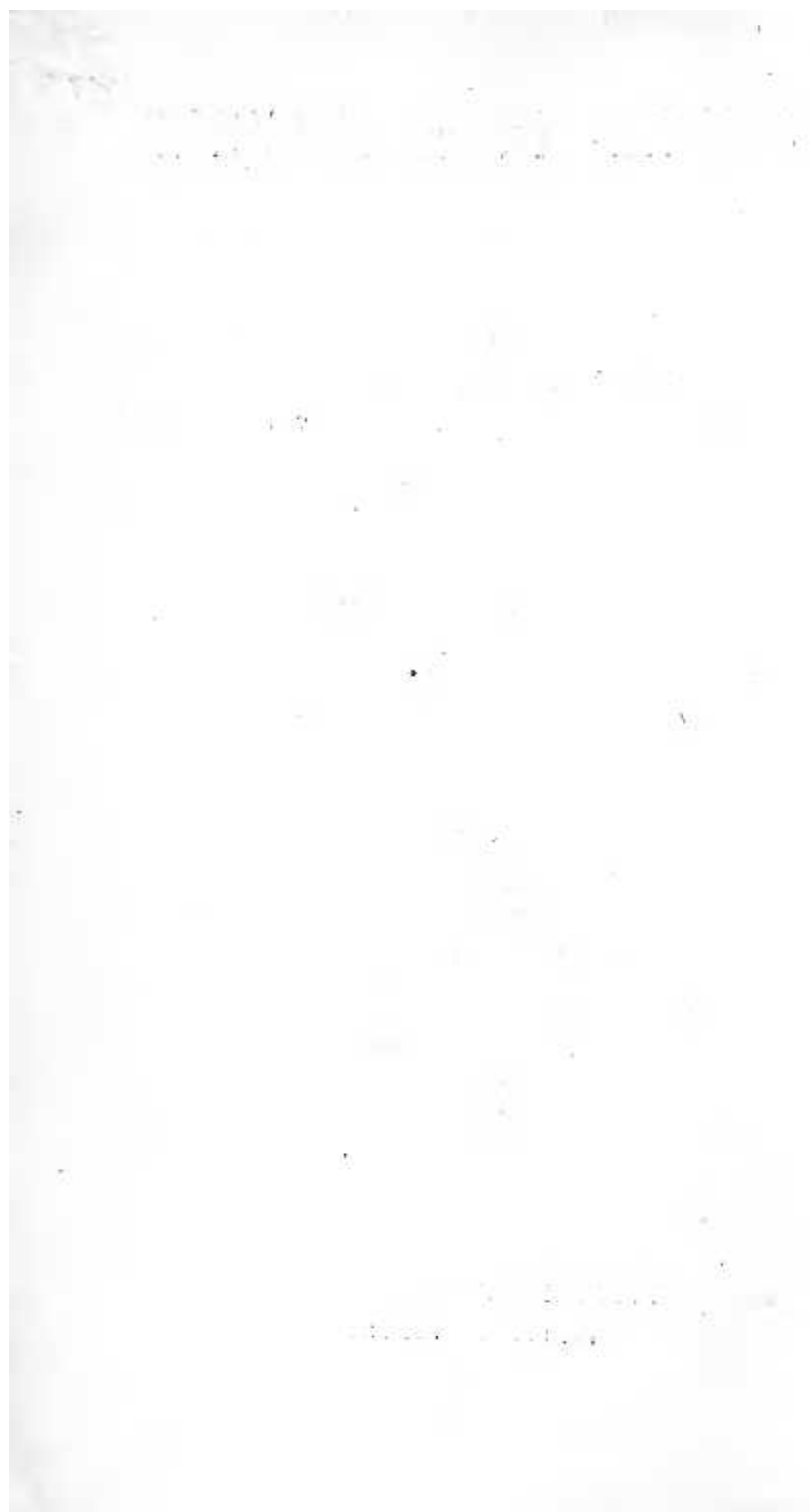
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PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

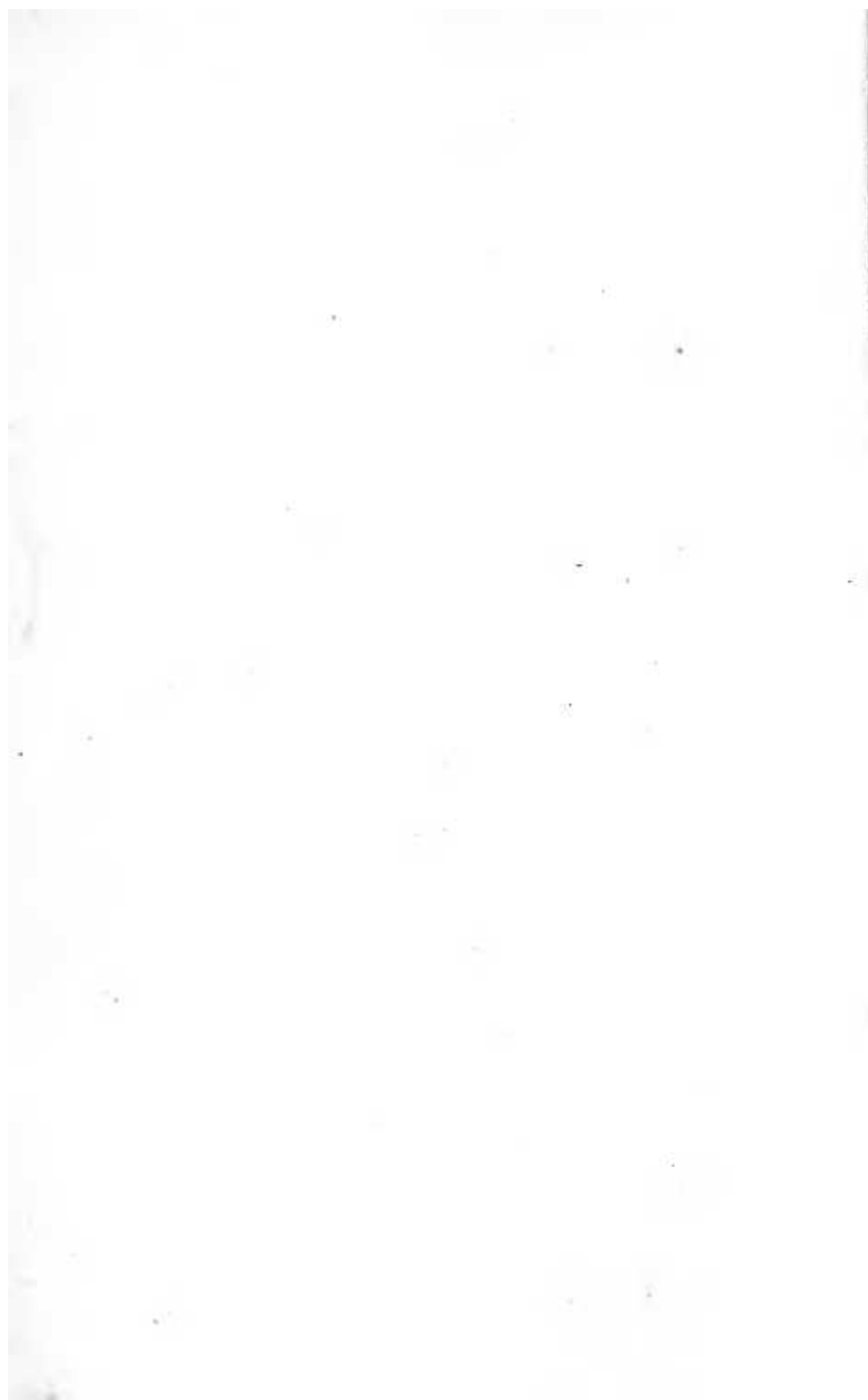
A common subject binds these essays together: they all treat of Islām in its manifold phases, from its humble birth at Mekka to its apotheosis in the Persian Miracle Play; even the Sabians may be called in a sense a Koranic sect. The treatment is doubtless slight, and many important developments of the Mohammadan religion are scarcely touched upon; but the general reader, for whom the essays were written, will probably pardon the lack of learned elaboration. The chapters on Islām in China and on the Mohammadan conception of Hell have been added in this edition.

Chapters IV., VII., VIII., and IX. are reprinted by permission from the "Edinburgh Review;" Chapter V. from the "Saturday Review;" and Chapter X. is reproduced from a collection of eschatological essays published in America, under the title of "That Unseen Country," by Messrs. Nichols, of Springfield, Mass. The first three Chapters originally appeared as an introduction to my edition of Lane's "Selections from the Kur-án" in Trübner's Oriental Series, and that on the Brotherhood of Purity was first published in the present work.

S. L.-P.

ATHENÆUM,

1 Nov., 1892.



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STUDIES IN A MOSQUE.

CHAPTER I.

THE ARABS BEFORE ISLAM.

Oh, our manhood's prime vigour! No spirit feels waste,
Not a muscle is stopped in its playing nor sinew unbraced.
Oh, the wild joys of living! the leaping from rock up to rock,
The strong rending of boughs from the fir-tree, the cool silver
 shock

Of the plunge in the pool's living water, the hunt of the bear,
And the sultriness showing the lion is couched in his lair.
And the meal, the rich dates yellowed over with gold-dust divine,
And the locust flesh steeped in the pitcher, the full draught of
 wine,

And the sleep in the dried river-channel where bulrushes tell
That the water was wont to go warbling so softly and well.
How good is man's life, the mere living! how fit to employ
All the heart and the soul and the senses for ever in joy!

—Saul.

BETWEEN Egypt and Assyria, jostled by each but yielding to neither, lay a strange country, unknown save at its marches even to its neighbours, dwelt-in by a people that held itself aloof from all the earth—a people whom the great empires of the ancient world in vain essayed to conquer, against whom the power of Persia,