

**ISLAM AND THE ORIENTAL  
CHURCHES, THEIR  
HISTORICAL RELATIONS**

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Islam and the oriental churches, their historical relations by William Ambrose Shedd

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**WILLIAM AMBROSE SHEDD**

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# Islam and the Oriental Churches

Their Historical Relations

*Students' Lectures on Missions  
Princeton Theological Seminary  
1902-3*

BY  
WILLIAM AMBROSE SHEDD, M. A.,  
*Missionary of the American Presbyterian Church  
to Persia*



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DEDICATED TO  
THE MEMORY OF  
BENJAMIN WOODS LABAREE  
WHO MET A CRUEL DEATH, SALMAS, PERSIA  
MARCH NINTH, MCMIV  
A TRUE FRIEND AND A DEVOTED MISSIONARY  
ΣΤΕΝΔΟΜΕΝΟΣ





## Preface

THE following chapters were prepared in response to an invitation from the faculty of Princeton Theological Seminary to fill the Student Lectureship on Missions. They were delivered in substantially the form published here. After delivery at Princeton they were given also at Auburn Theological Seminary, McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago Theological Seminary, and the Presbyterian Theological Seminary of Kentucky. The kind reception accorded them in these places has encouraged me to present them to the general public.

I am greatly indebted to the following libraries for the generous loan of books: Case Memorial Library of Hartford Theological Seminary, the Library of Princeton Theological Seminary, and the Foreign Missions Library in New York.

The original sources consulted have been Syriac. I am aware that an exhaustive treatment of the subject must be based on the

accounts of the Muhammadan as well as the Christian writers. So far, however, as the evidence of Christian writers mitigates the severity of our judgment of Muhammadan rulers, it can surely be trusted; and the fact is that the principal Syriac writers show few signs of bitterness toward the Arabs. Moreover, the Arabic sources have been used by writers more generally than the Syriac sources. It is, perhaps, well to warn the reader that the treatment of the subject is far from exhaustive geographically or chronologically. In particular the histories of the Christians of Egypt and of those under Osmanli rule illustrate the havoc wrought by the principle of limited toleration.

A word as to that vexed subject, oriental orthography. I have tried to be consistent and scientific, but I have not attempted to represent in any way the Semitic guttural 'ain, which has no equivalent in our Western tongues. If to some readers the spelling *Muhammad* appear pedantic, it must be urged that neither of the alternatives Mahomet or Mohammed is universally adopted and that both are incorrect.

WILLIAM AMBROSE SHEDD.

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