

**ISLAM AND
CHRISTIANITY IN INDIA
AND THE FAR EAST**

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Islam and Christianity in India and the Far East by E. M. Wherry

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Islam and Christianity in India and the Far East

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*The Student Lectures on Missions at Princeton
Theological Seminary for 1906-07*



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To My Co-workers
in
Missions to Moslems

PREFACE

THE Papers published in this volume, prepared specially for the Students' Lecture Course on Missions at the Princeton Theological Seminary, sum up the results of many years of study in connection with missionary work in India. The object has not been so much to present what is most interesting in connection with the cause of missions to Mohammedans, as to set forth the facts and conditions under which, on the one hand, Islam has been propagated in India and the countries farther east, and on the other, Christianity has established its missions for the evangelisation of all non-Christians, Moslems included. In the accomplishment of this purpose I have endeavoured to give a brief account of the religion of Islam, in order to show the character and quality of the work to be done in order to evangelise its votaries. Two chapters are then devoted to an account of the propagation of Islam in India and the Far East.

One of these emphasises the services of the proselyting sword. The other illustrates the power which Islam has exerted along the line of preaching. Taken together, these chapters show that in Islam, preaching and teaching normally follow upon the heels of the invading Moslem army, and on the other hand that the preaching of Islam invariably calls in the aid of the secular power. We also learn how very difficult it is

for a Church once made subject to the Moslem conqueror to exert any active influence for the evangelisation of its Moslem neighbours.

In the following chapters I have endeavoured to give an account of the Church's endeavour to bring the Gospel to the Moslems in India, China and Malaysia. This endeavour now appears not unlike the efforts of those intrepid travellers who many years since started out to discover the sources of the Nile. One after another entered upon this most difficult undertaking, each accomplished something of value, but for a long time the intrepid voyager either sacrificed his life in the wilds of Central Africa or returned to confess a failure. In due time the persistence of man has revealed the secret; the sealed doors at the head of the great mysterious river have been opened and once more the deserts of Egypt and Nubia are being converted into fruitful fields. The missionaries of the Eastern and Western Catholic Churches have done their work. Great tomes were written by them to expound to Christian readers the Quran and the Traditions of Islam. Some Moslems were converted, but the light of the Gospel was so obscured by the darkness of superstition and idolatry as to fail to reveal the way to the hearts of the followers of Mohammed. It remained for Protestant Christianity to bring to the Moslems of India and the Far East the clear light of the teachings of Jesus Christ. It remained for Protestant governments to bring to the Moslem world the gospel of religious liberty and to enable the Christian evangelist to present the saving truth of God's Word to his Moslem hearer without let or hindrance.