

**THE EXTINCTION OF THE  
CHRISTIAN CHURCHES  
IN NORTH AFRICA**

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The Extinction of the Christian Churches in North Africa by L. R. Holme

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## PREFACE.

**I**N breaking ground almost untrodden by modern writers I have met with many difficulties, especially in finding sources of information. In overcoming these I have to acknowledge much kind assistance, without which indeed this essay could never have been undertaken or brought to a conclusion. Mr Thomas Hodgkin, D.C.L., and the late Comte de Mas Latrie both shewed the utmost kindness in answering the letters of a beginner in the art of which they were masters. The Rev. H. B. Swete, D.D., Regius Professor of Divinity in the University of Cambridge, was kind enough to give much valuable advice and the Rev. W. Cunningham, D.D., of Trinity College, Cambridge, and Mr James Kennedy of the East India Club, referred me to information I should not otherwise have obtained.

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have also examined authorities which were beyond my reach.

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THE EXTINCTION  
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CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTION.

THE problem presented by the decline and fall of the Churches of North Africa is at once most interesting and most difficult. It is interesting because the Church of Carthage, formerly the most flourishing, the most earnest, and the most enlightened of all the communions of the world, has to-day perished and hardly left a trace behind. Yet it met with no trials that other Churches did not successfully overcome. The Copts, the Abyssinians, the Armenians, the Spaniards were all subdued by the Saracens, and yet all preserved their faith, even though in a debased form. The Africans, also, at one time seemed to be far more likely than these to withstand the attacks of the infidel. No one could accuse them of lukewarmness; their earnestness was almost fanatical and led them into dangers unknown to the careless. On