

sounded forth, ever carrying the Arab speech westward across the Sudan, the Sahara, and the Barbary States, until it is last heard in the mosques of Morocco.

Effect Upon
Other
Languages

As the speech of the Moslem conquest, the influence of the Arabic language on other tongues and peoples has been great, ever since the rise of Islam. The Persian language adopted the Arabic alphabet and a large number of Arabic words and phrases. As for Hindustani, three fourths of its vocabulary consists of Arabic words or Arabic words derived through the Persian. The Turkish language also is indebted for many words taken from the Arabic and uses the Arabic alphabet. The Malay language, through the Moslem conquest, was also touched by Arabic influence and likewise adopted its alphabet. In Africa its influence was yet more strongly felt. The language extended over all the northern half of the continent and is still growing in use to-day. But Islam spread even more rapidly than did the language of the Koran, and in consequence the Mohammedan world of to-day is no longer of one speech, but polyglot.¹ The

¹ An approximate estimate shows that 62,000,000 Moslems speak the languages of India; only 45,000,000 speak Arabic as their mother tongue; 27,000,000 use African languages other than Arabic; 30,000,000 Moslems in China, Chinese-Turkestan and among the Chinese of Southern Asia speak Chinese; 29,000,000 the languages of the Malay Archipelago; and other millions Turkish Slavonic and Turkish.