

Soon after the girl came back. And the dealer, when the bargain was over, said to the purchaser: 'I sell you this property of mine, the female slave, Narcissus, for the sum of forty pounds.' Thus the bargain was clinched. . . . Men slaves could be bought for sums varying from fifteen pounds to forty pounds. The children in arms were sold with their mothers, an act of mercy; but those that could feed themselves had to take their chance. More often than not they were separated from their mothers, which gave rise to scenes which many a sympathetic pilgrim would willingly forget if he could."¹

The illiteracy of the Mohammedan world to-day is as surprising as it is appalling. One would think that a religion which almost worships its Sacred Book, and which was once mistress of science and literature, would in its onward sweep have enlightened the nations. But facts are stubborn things. Careful investigations show that seventy-five to one hundred per cent. of the Moslems in Africa are unable to read or write. In Tripoli ninety per cent. are illiterate; in Egypt, eighty-eight per cent.; in Algeria, over ninety per cent. In Turkey conditions have greatly improved and illiteracy is

¹ Hadji Khan, *With the Pilgrims to Mecca: The Great Pilgrimage of A. H. 1319* (1902), 306-308.