

The statement made by Commission No. 1 of the Edinburgh Conference in regard to this advance was none too strong. It was based on the accumulated evidence of a large correspondence with missionaries in every part of the continent, and every word could be expanded into a paragraph if authorities were quoted. *“The absorption of native races into Islam is proceeding rapidly and continuously in practically all parts of the continent. The Commission has had convincing evidence of this fact brought to its attention by missionaries along the Nile, in East Central Africa, in Southeast Africa, on different parts of the West Coast, in Northern Nigeria, in the Sudan, in different parts of the Congo Basin, in parts lying south of the Congo, and even in South Africa. Mohammedan traders are finding their way into the remotest parts of the continent, and it is well known that every Mohammedan trader is more or less a Mohammedan missionary. The result of this penetration of the field by these representatives of Islam will be that the Christian missionary enterprise will year by year become more difficult. Paganism is doomed. Animistic faiths crumble quickly before any higher and more dogmatic religion. Either Christianity or Islam will prevail throughout Africa.”*

From every part of the mission field voices are raised to call attention to this advance in the Dark Continent. A few years ago Canon Sell of Madras wrote: *“There are times when it is very difficult to balance the competing claims of various parts of the mission field. I see no difficulty now. . . . Certain parts of Africa form now, in military language, the objective, and are the strategical positions of the great mission field. Parts of Africa in which the Moslem advance is imminent have for the present a preëminent claim. The absorption of pagan races into Islam is so rapid and continuous that in a few years’ time some may be quite lost to us.”*