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PAN-ISLAMISM IN AFRICA

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IN speaking of the spread of Islam in Africa we naturally think at first of the tropical part of the continent, for there Islam is now making its great conquests and there also we can best observe the laws of its progress.¹

In two huge fronts, one from the north and one from the east, Islam is advancing to embrace the southern and western parts of Africa. Both are backed by countries where Islam has been at home for more than a thousand years. Behind the eastern front stands Arabia, the very cradle of Islam. There always has been much intercourse between the coasts of Arabia and those of Africa, and to-day it stretches from the Mediterranean down to Mom-basa and Zanzibar, the two widely open doors of East Africa. Both of these places are on the southern side of the Equator, and so almost two-thirds of the whole African east coast are under the influence of Arabia, not to mention the countries farther east. The northern front extends from the shores of the Nile to those of the Atlantic Ocean. It covers almost the whole of the Sudan and is backed by the large countries of Mohammedan North Africa which are among the oldest and most impregnable strongholds of Islam. If we draw on the map a dividing line between Mohammedan and heathen Africa, we find

¹ Compare the author's article, "Die Ausbreitung des Islam in Afrika," *Allgemeine Missions Zeitschrift*, 1910, pp. 16-30 and 74-82.