

Africa are secret members of religious orders? Further we hear that every year masses of people of the north and west and also of the tropical part of Africa are going on pilgrimage to Mecca. To quote the Government Report of North Nigeria (1909, p. 6) : " Over 5,000 pilgrims annually cross the frontiers of Bornu eastwards on a journey which until quite recently has occupied from three to seven years. Their number is recruited from a Mohammedan population of 3,500,000." It is needless to add that among the whole population the Moslem spirit is strengthened by the "*Hajj*." It must be admitted that the pilgrimage is not equally popular in all parts. But even where it is not, the influence of Mecca is only too real, as was proved some years ago in German East Africa by an exciting letter circulated even among government troops, coming, it was pretended, from the prophet himself in a mysterious way.

Mecca and the Dervish orders are the strongest influences at work as regards the building up of a Moslem African population, self-conscious and a unit in bitter feelings against all non-Moslems, especially the Christians. This is what we call pan-Islamism. We must not forget that these influences come to bear even upon the newest parts of Moslem Africa, filling them with true Mohammedan spirit, and making them ready for the great rising against us that the future may bring. This future will be to some extent dependent on the attitude which colonial governments take. It is to be hoped that it will not be so favourable as it is now. Governments more and more find out that Islam is hostile to them, but even so we have no reason whatever to hope that the spread of Islam will diminish or come to a stop. We must rather expect the contrary, considering (1) the aggressive power of Islam, (2) the ever-increasing facilities of intercourse between the African peoples, as created by