

This is a very imperfect sketch of the chief Moslem missionary agencies of the last hundred years.

That in the past, as now, there has been great activity in the face of obstacles, there is no doubt; but now many of the obstacles are being removed by the great political changes in Africa in recent years, and the propaganda will certainly go on with accelerated force.

I have tried to ascertain the facts about the most recent advances, and though I have not obtained information so full as I could have wished, yet I give the present facts as made known to me.

In Abyssinia Islam appears to be gaining ground, and it is said that the whole of Northern Abyssinia will, it is feared, become Mohammedan within a short time.<sup>1</sup>

In the diocese of Mombasa on the east coast of Africa, I find that little is known of the Dervish orders, or of any propaganda carried on by them. Islam is of a low and ignorant type, and as yet has little or no connection with Egypt. Little or no instruction is given to converts.<sup>2</sup> Bishop Peel looks with some anxiety on schools which are to be opened for them, tending as it will to make them more active; but sees a great opening for mission work if mission schools can be established and Christian teachers trained who could easily find employment in government schools. Unless this can be done there will be, he says, "a grand struggle in the near future."

<sup>1</sup> *Der Islam*, quoted in *C. M. S. Review* for October, 1910, p. 636.

<sup>2</sup> "As all the available literature of Islam is in Arabic, and very few Swahalis, even in Zanzibar, know that language, it is evident that their proselytizing efforts can only have a very superficial effect. Conversion practically may be said to consist in the utterance of a formula. Yet these Swahalis, and also their so-called converts, are extremely difficult to win to Christ: they are so ignorant, even of their own ignorance, so impervious to argument, and they cling so stubbornly to their creed." *C. M. S. Report*, 1907-1908, p. 52.