

Moslem officials and soldiers employed by Christian colonizing powers. The belief that Islam is the best religion for the African has even led some Europeans to accord unduly favourable treatment to this religion.

Even if this opinion were correct, Islam would be certain to do what it has always done and what, by its very nature, it must do—estrangle men's feelings from the European government and place them under the influence of an extra-European power. Mecca so becomes the centre of their thought, and the connection with this focus of Moslem life is kept up by means of the pilgrimage and of literature. This cannot be to the advantage of any European government, especially since we never know when a terrible outburst may take place, as once happened in the Sudan.

But is the African in truth predestined to Islam?<sup>1</sup> We hear this phrase so often that I feel compelled to dwell on it a little. Its justification is simply this—that the African lives, so to speak, in the ancient world, and the Moslem in the Middle Ages. His culture and way of thinking impress the African as being on a higher plane, and up to a certain point they are intelligible to him, while our modern European culture is so distant from

<sup>1</sup>Sir H. H. Johnston points out in his valuable article (*Nineteenth Century*, June, 1910) that Islam has had twelve hundred years in which to conquer Africa and has not yet done so. This, again, is scarcely a proof that the African is predestined to Islam. I would also like to remind you how arduous was the struggle, prolonged through several centuries, which was necessary to prevent Europe from falling a prey to Islam. Africa had no resources which would have enabled it to offer a similar opposition.

Sir H. H. Johnston further points out that the regions of Africa which are inaccessible to civilization, or nearly so, are not the heathen, but the Mohammedan ones, and that heathen Africa has been opened up, not by the warrior, but by the missionary. Livingstone, Krapf, Rebmann, Mackay and others have shown the way.