

In face of this state of things, missions have hitherto found themselves practically helpless. Some soon discovered that words can do nothing to counteract such powerful social motives; others have from the first acted under the influence of the notion that a mission to Mohammedans must be fruitless. The result was that missionaries have rather avoided contact with Mohammedans and have devoted themselves to the heathen. Where they had to deal with pagans who had never been under Moslem influence, they obtained satisfactory results; but it remains to be seen what will be the attitude of these Christian communities, when the tide of Islam reaches them. When work has been attempted among pagans touched by Moslem influence, the results have been startlingly small.

What should therefore be done? The problem before us is to bring the gospel message to all men because we are convinced that the Gospel is a message of peace and freedom. We have no right to assume in the case of any human being that he stands in no need of this consolation. That is, we must not say, "It will not do to carry the Gospel to the Mohammedans." We must keep the one thought in mind that these people have no real spiritual refreshment, no means of moral progress, and, above all, we must remember the deplorable fate of their women. Missionary work must be an honest service of friendship and love, not propaganda which at bottom always contains a grain of self-seeking.

If we keep this service of love in mind, we shall no longer seek to avoid contact with Islam. But we must be better equipped for such contact than has hitherto been the case. If a missionary imagines that he can be of service to Mohammedans by preaching in the same way as he does to the African heathen, he is mistaken. In this case, a wholly different set of conditions is presup-