

and as the whole province has been blessed with an abundant rainfall it is very unlikely that, even if the Imam wished to wage war, he would get much of a following till after the harvest is over.

“The conditions of life too have changed very considerably since the Constitution was renewed. Now the administrators are straining every nerve of their diplomatic skill to conciliate the Arabs and restore confidence. Practically no taxes are demanded nowadays and none have been collected for a couple of years. The Ottoman government has also abolished a number of irregular and outrageous exactions to which the poor Yemenites were formerly subjected under the Hamidian rule. All *octroi* duties and tolls have now been abolished both in Hodeida and in the interior. Primary schools, too, are being established both in the towns and in the villages throughout the Yemen, and it is proposed to import a large number of agricultural implements for the use of the farmers in the neighbourhood of Sana. The government too has determined to bore a large number of artesian wells in the neighbourhood, and already the necessary plant is on its way up from Hodeida. It has also decided to spend £15,000 in constructing new roads and in repairing those already in use.”

Everywhere throughout the Yemen the Ulema are calling upon men to free their minds from the ignorance that prevents their seeing the progress made elsewhere and from the obstinacy which blinds them to the wonderful achievements in the arts and sciences that have changed the world during the past generation. “There is no use in any longer striving among ourselves. Let us rather,” they say, “with brotherly love clasp hand to hand and seek for the advancement of those things that make for righteousness and which help to ameliorate the sufferings of the poor.”