

Some of the Ulema also say that the Moslem rule has become an object of ridicule because they have gone away from the essential requirements of their religion, "and in proportion," they say, "as we fell to plundering we were overtaken by poverty and disgrace ; as we worshipped the world and preferred our selfish and earthly advantage to everything else we became the slaves of all men and especially the slaves of those who were both vicious and prodigal. As we transgressed the rights of non-Moslem subjects whose rights our prophet emphatically commanded us to respect we were in proportion to our sin deprived of God's help and became the objects of God's wrath."

Of course in the Yemen as in other parts of Arabia there are still stern fanatics to be found—men who try to stir up strife by declaring that if equality be granted to Christians, there is bound to be an end of Islam and a falling away of its people ; but the most learned of the Sheikhs say that the law of Islam enjoins equality and that though they personally can never believe a Christian to be half as good a man as a Moslem, yet politically and legally they should have equal rights with the Moslems.

With the spread of such opinions and with the opening up of the country by means of railways, roads and schools, we may, I think, find reason for believing that before very long the way will be opened for the Gospel's entrance into the interior, especially if a number of real Christians be drafted into the Turkish army as they were into the Roman army in the early days of Christianity, when through the Roman conscription heathenism gave way before the Christian influence of true believers' lives daily manifested to their fellows.

Prior to the year 1908 no Christian was allowed to serve as a soldier in the Turkish army, but when the new Constitution was promulgated it was openly declared that