

to the Moslem creed, and no hindrance must be put in their way to prevent their giving a reason for the faith that is in them, nor must they or any converts be punished in any way for owning and confessing Christ. As even according to their present-day teachers Moslems are told that retribution does not wait for eternity but comes at once on those who betray a trust or act the hypocrite; and yet what else are those doing who take Christians into the army as soldiers and then use them as scullions? The old despotic ideas must gradually fade away when men daring to stand up for liberty of conscience are able to persuade their fellows that wrong is wrong and right is right.

In Arabia especially this will be true, for like the old Celts the Arabs of the present day have plenty of *vim* but they lack *robur*. They have no continuity of thought. It is one thing to-day and another to-morrow, and if steady pressure is kept up by the servants of God all will be well. At first strong opposition will be manifested against missionaries who go to settle among them, but when they have settled the Arab will shrug his shoulders and say "*Ala Allah*" (God is responsible), or else excuse himself by saying, "I take refuge with God from the missionaries," as the Sayids of Wahat did when the government engineer and his staff went up to survey his land for water. They could not put up with their restlessness and drove them from the village. "You want to know far too much," they said; "you are far too inquisitive, you want to know how the water comes, how the storm rages, what the clouds are made of, why it is that thunder roars and how it is that lightning kills but we are content to be as our fathers were and say *el-hamdu-lillah* when Allah spares us and ours." When pressure however was put upon them they took refuge in God against the engineers *and allowed them to do their work*.