

If then the Church rouses itself to evangelize Arabia, Islam is doomed and must sooner or later take its place among the religions that have preceded it in the land of the Arab. After its own fashion it has done God's work, but the time has come for a general advance, and when that advance begins, the cleavage in Islam will widen and a new form of Islam will arise with subtler doctrine and purer life but even that must finally give way before the higher life of true Christianity.

That larger opportunity will soon be given to the Church no person conversant with current events can for a moment doubt, for it is impossible to take up a newspaper or a periodical that deals with Arabia without discovering a much healthier tone in the articles than there was two or three years ago. Public opinion is asserting itself in a way that was undreamed of under the Hamidian régime, and not only are great schemes being projected that are bound to have a civilizing effect on the people, but in some cases at least they are being carried into effect. German engineers are at work I am told on the Bagdad railway and Sir Wm. Willcocks with a large staff of competent engineers is at work surveying the Euphrates valley and trying to discover the best way of forwarding his great barrage scheme which will bring more than 3,200,000 acres of most valuable land under cultivation. And as the bringing of those Mesopotamian plains under cultivation will necessitate railway construction together with the bringing in of both European capital and Western enterprise, no one who remembers how Christianity travelled along the Roman roads can for a moment doubt but that this also is to be God's way of making an entrance for the Gospel. And when one hears from Eastern Arabia that even the Arabs (with whom Abd ul Hamid was personally popular because of his pan-Islamic leanings) are saying, "Thank God we have been saved from