

be under Chinese rule, and Bokhara on the north with its famous Mohammedan university may be under the suzerainty of Russia, but foreign rule affects their beliefs as little as England's rule over Malta has affected the Roman Catholic creed of that island, in fact the tendency of the foreign rule of an alien faith may be only to intensify the national belief by throwing into it all the strength of a pent up and otherwise inactive patriotism.

As an instance in illustration of this point it will be recalled that when the present Emir, Hubbibullah, recently visited India, he was even surprised at the enthusiasm with which he was hailed with acclaim by fifty-seven million Sunnis of India as their spiritual leader. It was to them in fact what the visit of the Pope would be to Ireland. On his part, true to his faith wherever he went, he strengthened the hands and encouraged the hearts of his co-religionists, and never failed at the stated hours to adjourn to the nearest mosque or quiet place for prayers.

Other distinctive features of Moslem rule may be traced to the fact that the Mohammedan is eminently practical. It is the practical side of him enforced by his martial qualities that has led to such success in his relations to the races he has conquered. An example of this is seen in the sagacious enactment of Mohammed, that while no Mohammedan woman was to marry an unbeliever (which would be likely to result in the woman going over to the faith of her husband), the marriage of a Mohammedan man with women of an alien faith is so definitely encouraged that the woman is theoretically allowed to retain her own beliefs, though the children of the marriage must be followers of the prophet.

We have been taught to regard the Mohammedan as a fanatical and impossible bigot, but so practical is he that his attitude towards other faiths is enormously modified by his environment. Under rulers of alien faith, notably