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MOSLEM ADVANCE IN INDIA

REV. JOHN TAKLE, BENGAL

THE pagan races of India have suffered much from invaders, but most from the raids made at different times by the hordes of Moslem freebooters that swept down from Central Asia into their midst bent on conquest. These races are supposed to have "let the legions thunder past, then plunged in thought again," but they never regained the position they had before the invasion. With the coming of the Arabs in the eighth century a new epoch in India's history was begun. They were followed by the Huns, Turks, Afghans and Moguls, and with their advent Islam made mighty inroads upon the districts where they came.

Was the progress made by fair or foul means; was it the result of belief born of conviction, or of a propaganda emphasized by force and persecution? Most will agree that progress first came through conquest and amalgamation; it was a growth largely due to the Moslems marrying the women of the land. The invaders had large battalions of men, but very few women of their own nationality and faith, hence the necessity of finding wives from amongst the Indian people. The men settled down and established towns and villages; thousands of half-breeds were born and this mixed race intermarried with the newcomers and the natives. In this way the crescent with its sickly light began to move across the Indian sky to its first quarter.