

ever its origin may be, a Moslem establishment always exercises influence on the heathen tribes of the interior. Various reasons bring about this supremacy. The Mohammedan population does not chiefly live on agriculture. They earn their living by trade and, just as in Europe, it is considered more distinguished not to be an agriculturist. The Mohammedan coast population do grow some vegetables and fruit, but as for the principal food, which is rice, they depend on the people of the interior. On their excursions they have always money with them and they never forget to make a show of it. The Mohammedans also dress in a better way than the heathen, and they very cunningly array themselves in clothes which excite the covetousness and desire of their heathen neighbours, who are very fond of buying new articles. They like to perfume themselves and constantly speak with contempt about eating pork and of other customs of the people of the interior. In short, they know how to behave as people of higher rank and quality than the simple pagans. They are also expert in flattering the chiefs of the tribes, and know how to make use of the weak points of the character of these men by encouraging them to abuse their power and make greater show in their daily lives. These traders are very clever in persuading the chief to spend money at the expense of his subjects. Even the Mohammedan wives know how to assume the air of important and distinguished persons, by dressing as showily as possible; they never carry any burdens themselves, but always are escorted by one or more slaves. They noisily complain about the heat and the fatigue of walking, and always call the attention to the fact that they do not perform any agricultural work, but weave and sew only. Through all these means the Mohammedan traders arouse the desires of the people