

tion, whom they initiate into occult science. These pupils have to promise beforehand to do anything that their teacher commands them to do.

In this peaceful and easy way Islam propagates itself slowly but steadily among the pagan tribes in Malaysia ; on a larger scale in Borneo, on a smaller scale in Celebes. One factor, which has worked powerfully in Sumatra to spread the Mohammedan religion, has yet to be mentioned ; it is the influence of the Dutch government in the islands of Malaysia.

It is very unjust to say that the Dutch colonial government favourizes the propagation of Islam. The neutrality of the Dutch government is genuine and is being maintained irreproachably. Any thwarting of Christian missions is to be attributed to the personal opinions of some officers of the civil service. But notwithstanding its strict neutrality, extension of the Dutch colonial power among heathen tribes of Malaysia inevitably is connected with extension of Islam. There are two reasons for this fact ; the weakness of paganism, and the strength of Islam.

When the Dutch government establishes itself where it has not yet ruled, the population is at first not much pleased. The chiefs who ruled independently are put under control ; the population has to do service and pay taxes ; they do not like to be ruled by foreigners. Their own religion has no power to resist, nor to extend itself, pagan religion not being more than family worship, founded on family traditions, so that it is utterly conservative. Changes in social life cannot take place without bringing considerable detriment to religion. The population which is newly brought under European government seeks a means of excluding European influence. If they do not yet know the Christian religion, they will regard conversion to it as the achievement of