

Press laws have been abolished and full liberty has been given to publish accounts of what has been done and is being done. Periodical publications of all sorts have multiplied like mushrooms in a hotbed. It remains to be seen whether the figure will apply in other respects than that of number. It is curious to note that when press laws were being abolished at Constantinople they were being revived and enforced at Cairo with new vigour.

It is early yet to pronounce the new régime at the Sublime Porte either a success or a failure. It has given a certain confidence to enterprises for public improvement. It has not succeeded in making the persecuted Armenians feel safe, nor even in stopping rapine and slaughter among them. The flight of young men from Syria to the West, to seek in America what their own country has denied them, still continues. The great failure has been that the new government has not been able to show that it even means to mete out even-handed justice to all races and religions. On the other hand it has already shown, just what the Nationalist party in Egypt has shown—that it aims at Moslem supremacy and Moslem aggrandizement alone.

But if the oxygen of reform is in the air, are there no signs that the work of oxydization has begun? Are there no indications of reform of any sort? There certainly are such indications.

Mohammedanism permits slavery. The large majority of Mohammedans may not own slaves, for they are under Christian laws, and no Christian government permits slavery. Even under Mohammedan governments it is unlawful and departments for the suppression of the slave trade are supported at government expense.

The suppression of the slave trade represses polygamy and the seraglio which fed on, and demanded slavery.