

Muir remarks, "It may, on the other hand, have been symbolical of his extreme aversion to the doctrine of the crucifixion."‡

According to Abu Hurairah, the prophet said: "I swear by heaven it is near when Jesus, the Son of Mary, will descend from heaven upon you people, a just King, and He will break the cross and kill the swine." In certain books of Moslem law it is expressly laid down under the head of theft, that if a cross or crucifix is stolen from a church, the usual punishment for theft is not incurred; although if it be stolen from a private dwelling, it is a theft. It is well known to readers of the daily press that Turkey and Egypt have never been willing to have Red Cross Societies under the International Hague Convention regulations, but have organized Red Crescent Societies instead. A more recent incident illustrating Moslem hatred for the cross comes to us from the Sudan in connection with the postal service. The *United Empire* says:

"In the early days, the stamps of the Sudan bore a water-mark which for many months passed unnoticed by their users. But one day a Mohammedan, in an idle moment, held one of them up to the light, and discovered to his dismay that this water-mark bore an obvious resemblance to a Maltese cross. Now, to a devout Moslem, any suspicion of veneration to the cross of the Christian is not only distasteful; it is absolutely forbidden. And here for months the Moslem scribes of the Sudan had been placing their lips, or at least their tongues, to its hidden design unknowingly. It may seem a small thing to some people, but the world knows what a doleful page of history has been written merely because some cartridges were

‡ Muir's "Mohammed." Vol. III, p. 61.