

CHAPTER XII

SEVEN PERILS OF HUMANITY—NUMBER ONE. THE MOHAMMEDAN PERIL

AS passengers on a ship which has no ports of call, the cliques, cabals, classes and divisions among the people aboard must be important. It was always so. For even in the days of old, the rise of a new dynasty in Asia filled the nations of Europe with fire and sword, by the mere ebb and flow of battle across the decks.

But now, we have learned to go to the remotest parts of the planet in vessels, each of which will carry an army; and we have supplemented the horse and camel with the train, the motor-car and the aeroplane. We have learned to go to other peoples in such wise—but we often forget that they also have learned to come to us. The good ship *Earth* can not be ever again the planet in which nations can

ON BOARD THE GOOD SHIP EARTH

live isolated lives. We are all in the same boat—and more and more we are driven to look upon the huge problem of life upon it as a single problem.

When one reads the story of sea adventure, he finds his first thrill in the description of the swarthy nondescript crew of Lascars, Malays, Kanakas and Portuguese. No matter how fair the skies or how favorable the breeze, the reader is aware that in another part of the ship lurks that crew, with knives in their belts and murder and mutiny in their hearts. But how about the swarthy crew on other parts of the decks of the good ship *Earth*? Are affairs on this spinning *Zeppelin* on which we sail perfectly free from danger from them?

There are several questionable cliques of sinister aspect on board with us, and of these I shall now speak of one—the Mohammedan peril.

We who are at least nominally Christians, are prone to think that the religion founded by Mahomet 1,300 years ago is a dying or decadent one. No mistake was ever more egre-

THE MOHAMMEDAN PERIL

gious. Mohammedanism is making three converts to Christianity's one!

It is growing in Russia, where the alliance of the decadent absolutism of the czar with the dying Greek Catholic church leaves the field free for the missionaries of Islam. It is sweeping over Central Asia like an infection. It is spreading through the islands of the Pacific, where it already is the ruling religion in Sumatra, Java, Celebes, Borneo and some of our Philippines. It is wiping out paganism in Africa, where it seems bound to become the universal faith of the black race. It is conquering Abyssinia, that kingdom of blacks in which Christianity of a mongrel sort has fought back Islam for a thousand years.

Mohammedanism makes fighters of its converts. Its weakness and its strength lie in this fact. Italy can not conquer the Tripolitanians. She may finally kill them, but she can not make them submit.

Mohammedanism unites all the races of the faith in one brotherhood. Freemasons and knights of various orders take oaths of mutual

ON BOARD THE GOOD SHIP EARTH

aid but none of them clings to one another as do Mohammedans. Russia in Central Asia, England in Egypt and India, France in Tunis, and Spain in Morocco were all disturbed by the rage of Mohammedans against Christians when Italy attacked Tripoli.

The Mohammedan nations of the world possess 1,500,000 trained soldiers, armed with modern weapons. There are perhaps ten millions of first-class fighting men, fierce, brave as any men in the world, but untrained, who are ready to die happily in the cause of Islam against the hated unbelievers.

Mohammedanism is a religion of sex-indulgence, of temperance, of hate against all other faiths, and is based on the principle that it is right to kill those who refuse to accept the true religion as they fanatically believe theirs to be. Such a faith so held is a world-wide portent.

This faith is as strong now as ever it was. As strong as when the Mohammedans conquered Spain, and were kept from making us all Mohammedans by nothing but the tre-

THE MOHAMMEDAN PERIL

mendous genius in battle of Charles the Hammer, grandfather of Charlemagne, who beat them back in a seven days' battle at Tours, in which the Mohammedans left 375,000 dead on the field. They had already conquered all of Spain and half of France. This was twelve hundred years ago.

From that time, the Moslems were held back at the Pyrenees, and were finally expelled from Spain; but all the time they were fiercely beating at the other door of Europe. They wiped out the last vestige of the Byzantine Empire, which held them in check for more than a thousand years. From this we should learn that Mohammedanism never quits. Nine hundred years after Charles the Hammer broke them to pieces at Tours, John Sobieski, of Poland, and Prince Eugene, of Savoy—who fought beside Marlborough, of England, at Blenheim—saved Christendom a second time, by victories in a series of terrible battles in what is now the Christian empire of Austria.

When one of the Moorish officers in Spain

ON BOARD THE GOOD SHIP EARTH

kept for himself a beautiful maiden, Abder-Rahman his general put him to death for keeping a treasure which should have gone to the caliph—the head of the church. And when the Mohammedans took Spain, thirty thousand fair women were sent as a present to the caliph. The Turks of to-day are the same as those who stormed Constantinople in 1453. Their war on the Albanians just prior to the attack on Turkey by the Balkan Allies was the same fierce Mohammedan war. Still girls are the reward of valor. The Circassian maidens of 1912 find their market in the harems of Islam.

Only one thing keeps the Mohammedans from resuming their march to conquer the world for Islam. Not lack of numbers—there are 220,000,000 of them, the best soldiery of the world. No, it is lack of money and scientific knowledge. Time was when the Arabs were the best educated people in the world, and the Mohammedan court in Spain was for three hundred years the center of science, wealth and culture. The great world danger

THE MOHAMMEDAN PERIL

in Mohammedanism is that some genius will arise among these peoples who will bestow on them knowledge of the sciences and financial honesty and ability again. If that time comes before Mohammedan fanaticism is weakened by general and liberal education, we shall need all the Charles Martels, all the John Sobieskies, and all the Prince Eugenes which the rest of the world can muster, to keep the good ship *Earth* from passing under the blight of the most seductive and the most degrading superstition on earth—a faith which enslaves woman, flouts democracy, and knowing nothing of rights, bows to power alone.

Just now the Crescent seems to be waning more pronouncedly than for centuries. The Balkan Allies have won a brilliant victory, and as this is written, Janina has fallen to the prowess of the Greeks, and Adrianople seems on the very point of surrendering to the Bulgars. The Turk seems crowded almost off the map of Europe.

But the Turk is not Islam. His headship has not been for a hundred and fifty years a

ON BOARD THE GOOD SHIP EARTH

good thing for Islam. The decay of Turkey does not mean that the Mohammedan peril is a thing of the past. Nine hundred years elapsed between the defeat of the Moors at Tours and the victories of the armies of Europe over the Turks at Vienna. During those nine centuries the Moors had been expelled from Spain and driven across the Strait of Gibraltar, as the Turks may soon be expelled from the Balkan Peninsula and driven across the Bosphorus. But Islam still lived. There may now be living in some Bedouin tent, or some Afghan village, on the steppes of Russia or Siberia, in some city of Hindustan or in an African hut the man whose son will ride the wave of resurgent Mohammedanism. Or if not his son, his grandson, his great-grandson, or his descendant a hundred times removed. The world of the Crescent is wide, and its caverns and penetralia very, very deep. Out of them almost anything may come at any time. Out of them, instead of mad mullahs, veiled prophets, and beaters of tom-toms, Genius will assuredly come sometime. It may be the

THE MOHAMMEDAN PERIL

genius of civilization, or the genius of conquest and slaughter. That it is so likely to be the latter is what makes the Mohammedan peril a real one.

The triumph of science in the Christian world was the destruction of superstition. Let us hope that the Mohammedan world may be disenthralled and enlightened by the same process.