

Nov 15th

Has the life & mission of Mohammed been a blessing to the world? and his doctrine or a burden

If Mohammed had never lived, would the world have been better off, than as the matter is? This is a theme that turns with some ordinary interest. It embraces the life of one of the most remarkable men that any age or nation has produced. It extends back through 12 centuries, embracing ^{more than} many generations & millions of mankind. It is closely connected with the history of the world during ^{all} this period (~~and during the former part of this time it was the staple of matter for all aspiring thinkers or writers & now it is one of the principal categories of the sacred countries its adherents by the Mohammedan nations~~) & for a few centuries following its promulgation to the world. History finds it one of its most absorbing themes. Thousands of young erudites millions have entered on their earthly career & having explored their lives, by these institutions, have passed away to find their eternal fate. So present this is no obsolete theme even now at this very moment, this same religion is spread over an ^{enormous} portion of the earth thousands are every moment perishing with ^{nothing but} the barren use of Mohammedanism to help them over the ocean of death. (~~to say this is a thrilling theme to those who with a side awake to the immense of mankind enter upon its consideration. But to entertain this point~~) Truly this is a thrilling theme to those who enter upon its consideration with a side awake to human interests & who see its value on a single scale. (~~So it is with a trembling hand that I attempt to utter a word in reference thereto~~) It bears its properly expressed the fruit of genius, the hand of industry, the time of years. I can no more than give my mouth & shut it again in the brief time given me, much less set forth a complete picture of all the joys & benefits of this Mohammedan religion.

In such historical questions at least we can only arrive at probable
& then so weak that the mind is not properly satisfied with them. In
every point "historians differ & critics contend" how then are we to
know anything but through these conflicting measures to come
any decisions & satisfactory conclusions - We know at the outset that
we cannot arrive at any satisfactory results, & in whatever way we
decide, there may be facts that history could bring which would
upset our own well constructed theories. A every chap in who gives
himself up to be won along through any question as the will of others
fit to form an own reason we are to expect to find the truth, thus we are
to recur - It is the office of historians to record events, to state facts, they
mean things as they are, so every one can see, & with no good reason
he who can offer the best reasons ^{for his conclusions} is the most worthy to be received.

~~There~~ Look at the matter as you ^{can} ~~will~~. Look at it as you will - we
are now convinced that the religion taught by Mohammed is a senseless
impotence. according to our ideas of this religion there is no saving
for anything religion about it, & all those who have professed to do it
will go to Hell in spite of Mohammed's intercession. We cannot then
introduce the introduction of this religion into the world as going to produce any
eternal blessings ^{in a future life} at any rate - because we don't believe in the same or
we can save a soul from eternal damnation - No matter whether
Mohammed was an enthusiast or an impostor, his doctrines remain
the same & we can see no reason why those who believe in them
will not be just as liable to be eternally lost.

But it may be urged that we can do no objection to the in-
troduction of Mohammedanism on this score because, in all human
probability all those who have a creed in Mohammed's words have
suffered since other forms of religion, as senseless & profane.

even, if there were any close kinship with series - I think there is
something of an argument in this - I think on comparison with the
religions that Mohammedanism succeeded, it will compare favourably.
The religion of the Arabs up to this time was a senseless idolatry
they worshipped the heavenly bodies in common with the other
nations of the east, though it is now said that they always main-
tained that there was but one God - Certainly Mohammedanism is
no more than this worship of the planets & the stars. The wonderful
religion that Mohammed taught was composed of part truths.
It is opinion that he was not scrupulous in appropriating to his
own use as much of the Jewish scriptures as would suit his plan. This
much truth was taught under the error - but it comes no nearer the
true religion than many of the heathen attainments. For instance Loveless
is a more true religion than Mohammed ever had - no being was as pure
as in more understandable & his teachings more useful - Mohammed
distinctly taught the stupidity of god enemies & other many social
courses of conduct among his followers that they previously pursued -
all this I consider a much clear gain on the side of right & truth
as far as this extends I think Mohammed deserves a heaven -
the world - It is regret against Mohammed that his example was not such
as it ought to have been - he had his faults no true - his love of women
rather obscure his usually abstemious course of conduct - Some persons
think lack from such a religion with brave they say - But things
I will not assert that Mohammed's conduct was what I could be a
wishes exactly god - we must consider the time in which he lived -
Such persons that have so much objection on this ground, I think would
turn quite pale if they knew how the wise Solomon, luxuriated
this over - it would have been an admission of the truth if he had
pursued any the virtue - & necessity the conduct of virtue than

in explanation it was an improvement & for such Mohammed should
have his due. As we compare to that of our times, you the Spirit has come.

But this was other kinds of religion than Mohammedanism, not
planted - It is now that Mohammedanism has crept in
after Christianity had won a great portion of the world & certainly
it was not desirable that a true should give way to a false religion.

But what was the state of true religion in the eastern countries -
all truths had been ~~swayed~~ ~~from~~ ~~the~~ ~~rule~~ ~~had~~ ~~gone~~ & the ~~particular~~ ~~case~~
case was all that was left of it. It was even worse than idolatry -
they had refused the Virgin Mary & offered at her shrine with as
much idolatry as the heath to the sun. The priests fought for their
rights with the sword - creeds & ceremonies as numerous as the sea
had crept in and were rankly flourishing in the very heart of the land.

I don't know how to strike them but I would prefer to see the sects
idolatry than to see the true religion thus trampled upon - indignantly less
in my opinion would be the guilt - We can not show many more than
that all this was swept away from the face of the earth. Only we
believe God raised up this religion as something better in his sight
than what then prevailed - The Jewish religion at that time was of my
thing still less worthy of existence - with ass-like stupidity they clung
to ceremonies & like external acts, while within they were full of
wickedness & all uncleanness - We mourn not their loss - We are glad
that Mohammedanism with all its faults was the most preferable
religion of the time & though the time has come when the mission is
larger seems to be one of our best will in order, such
through pure eyes we can see that it has been a benefit to the
world -