An Exhaustive Discussion on Polygamy, Pardah System, Divorce and Slavery, in Islam, Dr. Karl Kumm's Attack on the Holy Quran. By M. Mohammad Timur. **The Sword as Wielded by Islam and Christianity. A Comparison.** By Maulvi Mohammad Ali, M.A. Published by The Mohammadan Tract & Book Depot, Punjab, Lahore.

Our readers are acquainted with The Mohammadan Tract & Book Depot of the Punjab, through an article written for our Quarterly, Vol. I. The above are recent publications and show that in spite of the War,—perhaps because of its issues, the Mohammadan Press continues active on apologetic lines. It is not encouraging, however, to find a treatise of nearly two hundred pages in English for educated Mohammadan readers, in defense of polygamy. We had supposed that the day for this kind of apologetic was passed. The author, who remains anonymous, takes up the discussion on social and medical lines, and tries to prove his case. He naturally finds some material in his favor in the stories of the Old Testament prophets, and some of the church fathers, as well as the poet, John Milton. Polygamy in Islam is defended on general grounds, while that of the Prophet is justified for special reasons. Not only have we an apology for these practices, but the whole of the pardah system is painted in such pleasant colors that one would imagine the writer had never entered a Moslem home.

M. Mohammad Timur takes up the cudgels against Dr. Kumm. He says:

"It is grievous to find that men to Dr. Karl Kumm's pretensions should be so ignorant of the teachings of the Holy Quran as to declare to the world at large that the essence of its teachings is to kill or enslave the infidel. If the whole world had possessed that sort of intelligence which Dr. Kumm appears to possess, it would have been vain to make any attempt to refute the charge which he has brought against the Holy Quran. But we think better of our readers and believe that there are many among them that will appreciate the truth. So we will lay before them the passages to which Dr. Kumm refers, and every really intelligent man will see that the greatest injustice has been done to the Holy Quran by Dr. Kumm who observes that the essence of its teachings is "Fight the infidel and enslave him or bring him low."

The argument is not new, but his conclusions are none the less utterly unhistorical, for he claims that Moslem wars were always in self protection and never aggressive. The Old Testament again does duty to show that the wars of Jehovah were more severe than those of Mohammad.

The third pamphlet deals with the same subject, but is altogether more clever in its argument. Immediately before his arrest and crucifixion, the author says we find Christ directing his disciples to provide themselves with swords. This injunction must be taken as the final expression of his mind. In order to show to what length present writers will go in their own interpretation of the Gospel, we quote a paragraph:

It was with one of these swords that Peter soon afterwards cut off the ear of one of the multitude which had come to arrest him. This was the only use to which one of the two swords was put. Probably some more blood would have been shed had not Jesus, on perceiving a great number of men "with swords and staves" and seeing his party in danger in case a struggle ensued, pacified the mob by ordering Peter to sheathe his sword. It is probable that Jesus was at first under the impression that taking him for an ordinary preacher, the authorities would send one or two men for his arrest, and

accordingly he had prepared himself to meet the situation. Hence he expressed his wonder when he saw so many well-armed men who could easily overcome any resistance that his disciples could make, and exclaimed: "Be ye come out, as against a thief, with swords and staves?" (Luk. xxii:52). Of course it was quite advisable on the part of Jesus to give up his determination at the last moment, but the difficulty is that as a prophet his word regarding the sufficiency of two swords did not prove true. How is this difficulty to be solved? I hope some of our Christian friends would try to solve it. I may however mention here that history presents another instance of a great victory having been won with two swords. It was the victory won at the field of Badr by the Holy Prophet with 313 companions only who are said to have possessed only two swords. The enemy numbered over a thousand strong and they had among them Arab warriors of great renown. The Muslim Society was in danger of utter destruction, for among the 313 the majority had never seen the field of battle before. But since it was a question of life and death for the Muslim Society, therefore they had come into the field to defend themselves and their Holy Prophet trusting in God only for their victory. But though two swords did not prove sufficient for Jesus and his apostles, they wrought wonderful deeds in the case of our Holy Prophet and his companions. Was Jesus prophetically thinking of the swords of one greater than himself when he said: "It is enough!" Or did it happen that he had a vision in which he saw two swords gaining a complete victory with the assistance of God? for the prophets of God are sometimes made to witness events which happen hundreds of years afterwards.

Gibbon and other writers are quoted to show how often Christians took up the sword, and how their cruelties toward Moslems equalled, if not surpassed, those perpetrated by Moslems on Christians. The present war is not referred to.

The Panjab, Northwest Frontier Province and Kashmir. By Sir James Douie, M.A., K.C.S.I. Cambridge University Press, London, 1916.

This view of Northwest India, sweeping over a territory of a quarter of a million square miles is given by one who has spent thirty-five years of service there first as district officer and last as officiating lieutenant-governor. The view seems to be accurate; certainly it is kaleidoscopic. Scenes of the Himalayan mountain ramparts, "the abode of eternal snow," where the peaks suggest organ pipes, so vertical are the ridges, so jagged the ascending outlines. "And each pipe is painted a different color," glimpses of golden temples, portraits of courageous Maharajas who are now helping to hold up Britain's right arm, examples of native art, photographs of Black Bucks and Yaks, scrupulously designed maps representing mountain ranges, rainfall and irrigation systems—all these, and more, are flashed before you briefly but vividly.

A. H. H.

L'Alerte au Desert. By Magali-Boisnard. Paris: Librairie Perrin & Cie. 35, Quai des Grands-Augustins. Pp. 334. 1916. 3 frs. 50.

Mme. Magali-Boisnard who has been brought up to live the Arab life among the Arabs of Algeria, spent recently three years in the Sahara and came back "toute vibrante du souffle de la guerre." She gives us this bright little book composed of a series of interesting sketches of life in the Sahara during 1914-1916.

She tells of the things she heard and saw as she went about from place to place doing her bit of service for the old country in speaking the word that was to right the error or to explain that which puzzled