

Constitutional government in Persia and Turkey, if successful even to the least degree, will make the ideas and ideals of democracy contagious throughout the length and breadth of the Moslem world. A significant and surprising editorial recently appeared in a leading Moslem newspaper of Constantinople, from which we quote :

“The Moslem world is in the throes of a regeneration which will affect its social as well as its political conditions, and indirectly must concern its ecclesiastical affairs. It will undoubtedly have the same influence that the reformation of Luther and the French revolution had upon society and culture. The dethronement of three absolute monarchs in three independent Moslem states is a novel chapter in the history of Islam, and calls for grave reflection by the adherents of that faith. The social and economic affairs of a nation, as well as its religion, are closely allied to its politics, and there cannot be serious disturbance in one without having a great influence upon the others. It means either decay or progress, because there is no such thing as rest or stagnation in society. The human race cannot remain in repose. It must either advance or go backward.

“This suggests a thorough inquiry into the conditions of Islam ; whether the material advancement of the infidel nations has shaken the faith of Mussulmans in the wisdom and ability of their leaders, and has caused them to follow the lights of intelligence and learning that science has given to Europe and America, leaving Asia in partial darkness. The first thing for the people of Turkey, Persia and Morocco to do is to consider their own regeneration and get ready to take part in the advancement of civilization which is irresistible. If the teachers of the faith do not acknowledge the necessity of such progress, their followers will doubtless break away and leave them behind. The period of decadence of Islam has ended with the deposition of the three absolute monarchies, and hereafter there can be no tardy or indifferent recognition of the inevitable without sharing their fate.”