

arch like so many of his European brethren. But when it was no longer possible to keep the news from filtering through, they did their best to minimize its significance and to lessen its importance for fear that the startling nature of the edict should rouse the Arabs to demand back the caliphate seeing that the Sultan had no longer the autocratic power to maintain it. For it was well known to every one that the Arabs had a tradition to the effect that Mohammed had himself declared the caliphate to be the exclusive possession of the Koreish tribe. Strange to say, however, it was exactly the reverse that occurred as even the Sherifs said that the religion of Islam had been lowered by the same despotism that had brought all civilized institutions into decline ; and they declared that it was the Sultan's ignorance and tyranny which had prevented them not only from impartially speaking the truth but also from worthily defending their own creed when it was severely criticized, as it had been both by political leaders and students of religion. When this unlooked for effect was discovered the political leaders stayed their hands till they would see what further results would come from the constitutional freedom that had been given to the people.

An American missionary who had settled in Hodeida as a working carpenter went up to Menakha along with his wife, and a blind Syrian Bible woman. There they not only began work themselves but when firmly established wrote for reinforcements to help them in their work. It was not, however, very long before a reaction came. The Sultan Abd ul Hamid instigated a revolt against the Constitution, and once more tried to rally the Moslem world round his throne and his person. He gave the signal and his messengers quickly sped to every part of his dominion. The revolt, however, was only a temporary success. For, though in some districts there were