

five million Moslems in Bengal, over twelve millions in the Punjab, and in all north India about forty-five millions. The remaining seventeen millions belong to the Deccan, and central, western, and southern India, making a total of 62,458,077.

A glance at the map of the Moslem World¹ will show that the nearest point in the Malay Archipelago to the Arab trader is the northern coast of Sumatra. Here, therefore, Islam began its conquest in 1345. Next, it entered Java. A certain Arab, who styled himself an apostle, began to preach and win converts. He built the first mosque in Java. After the conversion of the chief, proselytes became more numerous, force was used to extend the Moslem state, the capital fell into their hands, and Islam was practically triumphant by 1478. Nine apostles or missionaries were sent out to convert the rest of the people.

The Malay Archipelago

Before the end of that century the King of Ternate, in the Moluccas, was converted, "and Islam was spread in the Spice Islands by Javanese traders who came there for the double purpose of procuring cloves and imparting Islam."

A Movement Still Unspent

In 1803 some Sumatra pilgrims returned from Mecca to proclaim a holy war against all infidels

Sumatra

¹ See map at the end of the book.