

This has been its ideal from the days of Mohammed, and it is not without reason that the Lucknow programme devotes so large a portion of its time to a consideration of the political changes in the Moslem world and their relation to Islam, and the outlook for Christian missions, as well as to a consideration of the attitude of Moslem governments towards Christian propagandism. Without encroaching upon the special programme for the second day of our Conference, a general survey of the political changes in the Moslem world since the Cairo Conference may prove helpful, and is specially appropriate on this first day when we engage in thanksgiving and praise for what God has wrought in the Moslem world through His providence and Spirit.

The statement was made at the Cairo Conference that the present political division of the Mohammedan world is a startling evidence of the finger of God in history and a challenge to faith because it indicates how many of the doors in Moslem lands are wide open. Three-fourths of the Moslem world were then considered accessible to missions, and the late Dr. Jessup, speaking of this challenge of open doors, said, "It is a fact not to be ignored or lightly regarded that almost the only really open doors to reach Islam are in countries where Moslems are under Christian or non-Moslem rule. The Turkish Empire, Western Arabia, Persia, Turkestan, Afghanistan, Tripoli, and Morocco, under Moslem rule, are virtually sealed against liberty of conscience and belief. On the other hand, in India, the East Indies, Northwest China, Egypt, Tunis, and Algiers, the door may be regarded as open, so that about 140,000,000 are in a measure accessible to the Christian missionary." It needs a statement such as this to make us realize what God hath wrought during the past five years in the Moslem world for the hastening of His kingdom.