THE MOHAMMEDAN REVIVAL.

The condition of affairs in Egypt remains exceedingly dangerous and threatening, and from causes which are not apparent at once either to Europeans or Americans. Advises from various countries of the East show that a very serious revival of Mohammedan fanaticism has already begun. The new prophet—according to the ancient prediction—is expected during the coming Summer or Autumn; the conditions of his advent are already discovered; an individual of the family of Mohammed has appeared, and is drawing after him followers in both Africa and Arabia. The ancient prophecy says that "he shall make the streets of Mecca run red with the blood of both the infidels and the backsliders from the faith" of Islam. Disturbances are said already to have broken out near the sacred city. But it is among the wild tribes of Africa, now contending with the French, that the excitement is reported most intense. The Sultan sees that his position as "leader of the faithful" is in danger if the new prophet gains a following, and he and his agents are fomenting the Mohammedan agitation and are seeking to direct it in favor of the Ottoman head of the Church against the European powers. It is believed that in various parts of Asia the Mohammedan uprising is secretly moving, and that it may finally extend even to the British Empire of India and produce formidable dangers there.

No student of history can regard a revival of Islam as one of the impossibilities or as a thing of light import. There is a capacity of intense and fiery fanaticism in Oriental races, and there is even yet a surprising power in the old faith of Mohammed, which can produce even in this age terrible and far-reaching effects. A new prophet, proclaiming destruction to the infidel and paradise to the faithful, with a few victories to strengthen confidence, might even yet sweep from one end of Asia to the other. The Sultanate of Constantinople would go down before such an invasion. Persia would be conquered, Egypt might be occupied, and a convulsion break out in Mohammedan India which would not permit an English soldier to land at Cairo or on the shores of the Levant. These, however, are the remote eventualities. Present dangers are sufficiently near for the European powers. It is plain that France has an affair to last for a generation in subduing the African tribes, where victory is useless and retreat disgraceful.

Egypt is in a most remarkable position. The Liberal Government of England and the republic of France are found united in putting down the only effort of this century or all centuries for apparent Parliamentary government in the country of the Nile. The two best administered countries of Europe are allied to enforce the most iniquitous and tyrannical financial administration which ever plundered the poor for the sake of the rich. The Navy of Great Britain combines with the Army of France to force the last relic of their poor harvests from the wretched fellahen of the Nile. And yet an iron necessity as of fate seems to compel these powers thus to act against all their principles and policy. They know that a tremendous Mohammedan movement is working under the surface in Egypt. Already the hated Giaours are insulted in the streets of Egyptian towns. The apparent Parliamentary movement is probably one really for the Army, which means the military strengthening of Mohammedanism. Should the two powers leave Egypt to herself, there would be a reign of Moslem violence and bigotry.

All the financial obligations of the country would be broken, (which would be no great loss;) the Sultan’s power and perhaps the Khedive’s be destroyed; some wild son of Islam be at the head of one of the (naturally) richest countries of the world, and the unhappy fellahen perhaps be oppressed worse than ever. Then for England would be the perpetual danger of harm or destruction to the Suez Canal. One solution of the problem—not an unnatural one—would be a compact between France and England whereby the former should be permitted to work her will on Tunis and the African Provinces and England be allowed to occupy Egypt. But such an agreement would be very unacceptable in Great Britain, and would not commend itself to the moral sense of Mr. Gladstone’s Cabinet. It would be guaranteeing one iniquity by another action very doubtful in its morality. Then it would involve forty or fifty thousand British troops quartered in Egypt, and a vast annual expense. An English occupation of Egypt would ultimately upset the present Government. The alternative would be a joint occupation or the "control" supported by fleets and armies. This would be a difficult, annoying, and dangerous proceeding.

It would cause endless frictions and jealousies between the two powers, and might call forth the protests of the other European great powers. Egypt and the miserable peasantry would suffer fearful under such an occupation. Whichever way we look in the Eastern questions the dangers seem great. But worst of all for the world would be the "Mohammedan revival."