

## IV

### A GENERAL VIEW OF THE MOSLEM WORLD

If we regard numbers, Islam is among the mightiest of all the non-christian religions; as regards its geographical distribution, it is the only religion besides Christianity which holds a world-empire of hearts in its grasp; and its wonderful and rapid spread proves beyond a doubt that it is a great missionary religion and aims at world-conquest. Mecca has become the religious capital and the center of universal pilgrimage for one seventh of the human race. Islam in its present extent embraces three continents and counts its believers from Sierra Leone, in Africa, to Canton, in China, and from Tobolsk, Siberia, to Singapore and Java. In Russia Moslems spread their prayer-carpets southward toward Mecca; at Zanzibar they look northward to the Holy City; in Kan-su and Shen-si millions of Chinese Moslems pray toward the west, and in the wide Sudan they look eastward toward the Beit Allah and the Black Stone—a vast Moslem brotherhood.

**A World-wide  
Religion**