

1911

51122

St. George's Hotel  
Herne Bay  
England.



Aug. 12, 1916

Dear Sir,

I have received your card for which I am much obliged. I am sorry that the Risalah had not reached you at the time when you wrote. But I hope it may have done so now. It will be a very great favour, indeed, if you will, as you suggest, write a review of the little

book <sup>in</sup> ~~the~~ (2) some of the matter  
to which you contribute;  
& I am only sorry that it  
is not more worthy of  
your attention. Were ~~we~~  
it to do over again, I  
should be inclined to  
make the introduction  
somewhat longer; for I  
find that that part of  
the work, even as it stands,  
seems to interest the general  
reader. To scholars like  
yourself, however, I can  
only hope on the other  
hand, that the Arabic  
text of Ibn Abū Layd,  
with its quaint directness  
of statement & archaic  
style may possess  
an interest which the

elementary<sup>(3)</sup> notes subjoined  
by us can hardly claim.

I do not know, Sir, how far  
your studies may possibly  
have extended in connection  
with the Maliki School  
of Muslim Law; but so far  
as my own acquaintance  
goes the Bāḥrāt-al-  
Sa'd certainly seems to  
have a charm of its own.

With regard to the <sup>our</sup> larger work  
based on the Mukhtasar  
there is, as, of course, you are  
aware, a French translation  
in existence by Dr. Perron.  
Unfortunately it is disfigured  
by errors to an extent  
which called forth the  
criticisms of Cadogan &  
others at the time when

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it appeared; & in the course of your own work, referring to it from time to time at the outset, we were very much struck & astonished at the grossness of the errors into which so distinguished a writer had fallen & the looseness & inaccuracy of the rendering throughout. Remarks of this sort, one would, of course, avoid making in public, but in writing to you <sup>on</sup> the subject it seems right to refer to them as indicating the need of which there is of some more correct rendering of so important a work in some European language





& also — a point which  
 you, sir, will recognise  
 — the need for some larger  
 work which, beside  
 giving the bare minimum  
 in part of the text will  
 put before the student  
 the underlying principles  
 of the law, & explain its  
 growth & (the most  
 certain manifestation  
 of vitality) its adaptability  
 to circumstances, as  
 against the rigidity  
 & immovability with  
 which Muslim Law  
 in general is com- only  
 reproached by those  
 whose reading has

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not gone beyond the  
perusal of a few  
Summaries or elementary  
treatises. In this respect  
even the excellent work  
by Santayra & ~~Cher~~  
Cherbonneau, though  
more in touch with the  
actual application  
of law in modern  
times, is very far  
from satisfactory.  
The translation of the  
Mukhtasar prefixed  
to the first volume is  
full of errors, & gross  
mistakes are made,  
such as taking the

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names of commentaries  
for writers &c. &c.  
Seignett's translation  
does not cover "marriage",  
"hadānah" &c. & the best  
work really so far  
which has appeared in  
the French language is  
Hondas & Martel's  
annotated translation  
of Tuhfat-al-Hukkām  
of Ibn Aṣim. The  
inadequacy of a little  
work of that sort,  
however, as a book  
of reference for lawyers,  
judges, &c. is obvious,  
& the inconvenience  
thence arising has,  
I believe, been pretty  
widely felt in connection

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with Muslim cases  
appealed to the Pring  
Council.  
For those who have the  
patience to read or  
consult it, our larger  
book will at any  
rate, I hope, with  
its copious commentaries  
e. g. be found a  
mine of information  
~~not~~ direct from the  
original sources with  
as little personal  
suggestion or comment  
as possible. As the  
work advanced we  
have become more  
& more impressed  
with the necessity  
of following this  
method. But while



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thus excluding the  
personal equation  
as far as possible,  
we have found it  
a difficult task in  
many instances to  
ascertain the precise  
meaning of the highly  
technical & condensed  
statements of the  
~~our~~ commentators. only  
by using five or six  
together & extensively  
comparing the terms  
employed have we  
been able to satisfy  
ourselves as to the  
meaning of terms  
& usage which  
are rarely to be met  
with in any dictionary



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But I fear, Sir, I am  
 abusing your patience  
 in thus riding my  
 own hobby, & all  
 upon the pretext of  
 so small a work  
 as I have, at present  
 the honour to present  
 for your friendly  
 judgment in this  
Bakurat-al-Sad.

With very many thanks,  
 for your kindness  
 in writing, as you  
 have already taken  
 the trouble to do,

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I am, Sir,  
 Yours respectfully  
 Abdullah  
 al-Mamin  
 Subrawardy

\* For example, "Teoudih  
 says such-and-such"  
 referring to some statement  
 or supposed statement  
 in الترويح of Khatil

To Professor Ignaz  
 Goldziher

P.T.O.



I am sorry to have  
omitted another  
French work viz:  
President Lays's  
Traité élémentaire,  
which, however, is only  
for beginners.