

"Highland Court," Windsor Ave.,
 Hartford, Conn., U.S.A.
 Dec. 20th, 1903.



Dear Professor Soudygher,

I have been hindered for
 a couple of weeks from thanking
 you for the most kindly and
 generous notice which you have
 given to my Development in
 the Revue de l'histoire de Belgique.

I could not possibly have dreamt
 of a better review than you
 have written, for fullness
 appreciation and sympathy. Such
 words from you mean much
 more to me than from anyone
 else; it has specially pleased
 me that you have found my
 translations careful and accurate.
 How difficult such stuff is to
 translate you know, and I can
 assure quite freely that a number
 of places remain where I doubt

all over a most interesting me and your point about Ibrahim W. Adham and the Gueddeh is undoubted well taken. My only doubt is whether the Buddhist influence was considerable. Snow's paper in De Sids I would certain have given, had there been the slightest chance of any of my readers knowing Dutch. But there wasn't; Dutch to the English and American is as outlandish as Russian.

The book of Nicholson's about which I asked is this History of Arabic literature, not yet published. It makes the title like the others in the series - i.e. that in which Brown's Verney literature has appeared - it will long to run A literary history of Arabia, which will be a history of Arabic literature by any means.

whether I have caught the precise point. Your corrections are all carefully noted and will be used if I ever get to a second edition. Only on one point do I feel like "putting up a fight", as they say here, and that is on the Maliki influence upon the Idrisid and the Maghrib generally. It is of course only an hypothesis but it seems to explain the curious Sunnite-Alid position of these Shi'ites, so different from all other Shi'ites. So Morocco at the present day is Shi'ite and Alid but knows nothing of Tuwalers or Sevensers and follows the Sunna. But all this I write with the greatest diffidence.

The question of Indian elements in the Muslim civilization is

Your own sketch of philosophy
I am looking for with eagerness.
I do not know whether you
share my disappointment with
De Boer's little book.

But all these are matters
which I trust to have a chance
to talk out with you next
September at St Louis. The
Committee of the League of
Arts and Sciences tell me
that you have consented to
give me of the two papers on
the history of Muhammadanism
and have asked me to give
the other. I need not say
how much I feel honoured
by being yoked with you
in this matter. Further, if
I understand rightly, your
leading paper, is to sketch the
history of Muhammadanism as
it has now been worked out,

and then I am to take up
the story and state the
remaining problems. It is
a gigantic job to get into
two lectures, and it will
probably be well for us to
come to some understanding
before September that should
be possible.

In the mean time let me
express to you again my
very high appreciation of your
kind review. Mr. Macdonald
demands me also to thank you
most heartily for your regards
and to extend to you the
same from here.

Yours faithfully,
Duncan B. Macdonald.

