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# NEGLECTED ARABIA.

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## The Dying Fire and the Living Fire.

From "The Moslem World," Vol. I, No. 1.

"You have to leave the old fire and come to the new!"

There was a ring in the speaker's voice as she ended her story with these words, and her eyes were shining.

It was one day last winter, and we were sitting together, the girl and I, in a well-furnished Arab room in an inland town only lately opened for native work—a girl who had been prayed for during some months as the first awakening Moslem soul within its precincts. Her husband was well to do, and she was a handsome, gay-spirited thing, queen-regnant just now in the household of women. My fellow-worker's visits were allowed her for the sake of diversion, for she sometimes found life insufferably dull. Poor child, she was but eighteen.

Our last visit, two days before, had been a seemingly fruitless one, for she was in trouble over a bracelet entrusted to her, which had been stolen, and this made her too *distracte* to listen. Now all was changed, for God had been at work. He had worked by a dream, such as often comes among His first touches on these imaginative people of the East.

"I will tell you all about it," she began. "It was the night after you were here. I dreamt that I saw two kanouns\*; in the one was a

\* An earthen fire-pot in which charcoal is burnt.

very little fire, nearly going out, in the other was a bright, strong fire that kept increasing. Someone was standing by, and he said: 'Do you know what these two fires mean?' I answered him, 'I know not.' He went on: 'The little fire that is nearly out is the religion of the Arabs; they pray and they give alms, and witness, and fast, and they say, "Inshallah† we shall go to heaven"; it is a very little fire.

† "If God will," a vague expression of desire and hope.

But the bright fire is what your friend has told you about our Lord Jesus—there is no "inshallah" in this. You have to leave the old fire and come to the new.'