

Educational (1913) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 313

DATED 17-4-1913.

[Despatch Abstract.]

The Talisman Recording extracts from "The Muhammadan" of the 17th March
1913 regarding ^{Scott's} "The Talisman", a text book ^{presented} for the School Final Examina-
tion 1914; and Mo

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

The Muhammadan. [Monday, March 17, 1913]

"THE TALISMAN" AND THE MOSLEM FEELING.

It is singularly unfortunate that at a time when the Moslem feeling is at its highest that the Madras Text Book Committee should have thought it fit to prescribe *The Talisman* as Text in English for the School Final Examination (1914). From end to end the Moslem world is aroused to its utmost depths. Never before was the Moslem mind in India so much pained and agitated as it is to-day. The land to which we ever look up with love and reverence, is in its dying throes. The Caliphate to which we are bound by all the ties of traditions of our Faith is in a deadly struggle with a Christian confederacy. Amidst defeat and disaster and writhing in wrong and pain, Turkey to-day presents a sad, glorious picture.

At this juncture the Madras Text Book Committee should prescribe *The Talisman* of Sir Walter Scott is as injudicious as it is mischievous. Sir A. G. Bourne who happens to be the Chairman of the Text Book Committee ought to know better. He ought to know from his experience as once the head of the Presidency College that Indian students, book worms though they may be, are singularly appreciative of the feelings of the writers they read. They resent any unmannerly and brutal references to what they hold dear and sacred.

Headless of the student's capacity to rummage the dry pages of the *Talisman*, indifferent to the style in which the book is written and oblivious of the fact that the book contains several mean and mendacious references to the Prophet—the Text Book Committee has prescribed for the School Final Examination a precious little

volume of nonsense, under the Chairmanship of the Director of Public Instruction. We cull the following from the *Talisman* for the reader's edification. "Richard took a scroll, in which were inscribed these words:—'The blessing of Allah and his Prophet Mahommed,' (—); said Richard, spitting in contempt by way of interjection)". Again Richard says of Allah and our holy Prophet "—". "Hold, hold, said Richard, 'I will have no more of—'! It makes me sick to think the valiant and worthy Soldan should believe in—"

We have refrained from quoting the words used in the above excerpts—for they are so insulting to our religious feeling that we shudder at the levity in which the words are couched. We would, however, refer the reader, to pages 36, 44, (*The Talisman*, Sixpenny edition.) Such bitter and provoking references to what we prize most are found in *The Talisman*—a narrative touching the crusades of Saladin and Richard Coeur de Lion. We now appeal to the Government of Madras that they would, in consideration of the feelings of the Moslem students, ask the Director of Public Instruction to strike off at once *The Talisman* from the Text Books prescribed for the School Final Examination for 1914.

It is a pity, a thousand pities, that men who are to provide intellectual pabulum to the educated youths of the country, should so far forget themselves and be so culpably ignorant of the trend of affairs of to-day, as to prescribe a book which is calculated to rouse in the minds of a large section of students a feeling of resentment and bitterness. We believe we are not mistaken in reading the attitude of the Government if it should, in consideration of the Moslem feeling, knock the *Talisman* out of the prescribed Text books.

C. 79
21-3-13.

C.I.D. 2

CONFIDENTIAL.

Name of Publication— "The Muhammadan". 3

Date— 17th March 1913.

Page— Extract.

Column—

no. 31. n.p.
20/3/13

CHIEF SECRETARY
20. MAR. 1918
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

SUBJECT.

"The Talisman" and the Moslem feeling.

Submitted to the Chief Secretary for perusal.

C. 1056 Eof
31. 3. 13Munim
20/3/13

To Under Secretary.

Submitted for perusal.

CHS
24/3/13

2. The extract may perhaps be sent to the Edl. Deptt.

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25. 3. 13.JdL 2.0 C-79-1
27-3-13C1
26/3
Educ Wd
27.3.13

GOAL & MUNICIPAL
29 MAR 1913
SECRETARIAT

presently subject of
Selling.

CHS
21/3/13

Educational Department.

The newspaper ^(cutting) may be sent to the S.P.S. for perusal

u.s.o.

No objection.

ON 1-4-13 *CR* 3413

4 22

S.P. Ins.

No no. 103 of 10-4-13

I support the fact that the Dalimman gives a very flattering picture of Saladin. Hence the Committee to the fact that the book contains many expressions which to people without a dramatic sense would be highly offensive. I am taking steps to have another or an alternative book prescribed

for 10.4.13

Submitted that the papers may now be recorded. A draft is submitted below for approval

CR 13.4.13

Heb 16.4.13

To Under Secretary
Submitted



Vol no. 1056-1
4.4.13

To Under Secretary
Submitted

Recorded

$$\frac{a}{\sqrt{3.4 \times 10^3}}$$

HeM
16.4.13

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