

## A MOHAMMEDAN FUNERAL.

### Singular Ceremony at Anfield Cemetery.

The first lady ever converted to Islam, in England, having died, was buried yesterday at Anfield Cemetery, Liverpool, according to the rites of Mahomet.

Mrs. Fatima E. Cates, the lady's name, was converted thirteen years ago, following a lecture by the Sheik of the British Isles (Abdul Quilliam Bey), at Birkenhead. She subsequently converted her husband and her two sisters, who married Muslim gentlemen in India, and she remained to the last a firm adherent, confessing her faith to the Sheik, and receiving from him, on her deathbed the Muslim equivalent of "extreme unction."

Mrs. Cates lived at Grenada, West Kirby, Cheshire. She died a few days ago of pneumonia.

Yesterday's interment was the first at Anfield, previous Muslim funerals having taken place at the Necropolis, where forty Muslims lie buried. The Necropolis is now closed.

The Sheik officiated, and celebrated the obsequies, according to Muslim ritual. He recited three "racats," or prayers, over the coffin, read extracts from the Koran at the graveside, cast dust on the coffin, and at the moment the grave was about to be filled up called out, in a loud voice, to the deceased in Arabic:—

"O Fatima, say at the Gate of Heaven, and on the Day of Examination there is only one God, and Mahomet is His Prophet! Oh, thou soul, which art at rest, return unto thy Lord, well pleased with thy reward, and well pleasing unto God. Enter among His servants, and into Paradise!"

The Sheik scouted as ridiculous the belief that Muslims are buried erect with head shaved except for a top-knot that the Prophet may snatch them to Paradise at the Judgment Day. The body is recumbent, as in a Christian burial, only the coffin is as thin as possible in order to hasten the return of the body to the dust from which it was made. The spirit, however, is supposed to go before two angels, with a Book of Record, in which the good and bad deeds of the deceased on earth are set down. A good deed outweighs a bad deed seven times; and if the good deeds outweigh the bad deeds by so much as a feather, the soul is safe for Paradise.

The coffin had a green pall with embroidered silver crescent and star.

Muslim graves contain only one body each; the body must be placed three feet below the surface, with a space of two feet on either side, and the coffin is not to be disturbed for 30 years.

There was an enormous concourse of spectators, but the Muslims present wore no mourning, death being regarded, like birth, as natural and an ordinance of the Almighty, and the money spent on display in some Christian funerals is spent instead in feeding the poor, a course which will be followed in the present case.

DAILY DISPATCH, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1900.

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