

Article A (adapted)

OBITUARY.

ABD-EL-KADER.

New York World, Nov. 12.

Vocabulary

- **marabout:** a member of the religious and intellectual elite of traditional North African society

An official report from Paris this morning announces that Abd-el-Kader, the famous Arab leader, is dead. He was the third son of a Marabout chief named Muhyi ad-Din, and was born near Mascara in 1807.

At an early age he was proclaimed Emir of Mascara, and at once declared a religious war against the French. Hostilities were interrupted shortly after--Abd-el-Kader entering into a treaty with the French, which established him ruler of the province of Oran. By this treaty Abd-el-Kader derived many advantages.

In an attempt to extend his territory, he again quarreled with the French and declared war against them, which continued almost uninterruptedly for ten years. Marshal Bugeaud, however, gained a decisive victory December 23, 1843, and Abd-el-Kader surrendered, on the condition that he be allowed to move to Alexandria [Egypt].

This promise, however, was never fulfilled, and Abd-el-Kader was thrown into prison in France. Here he remained until the declaration of the empire in 1852, when Louis Napoleon released him on condition that he would never oppose French rule in Africa.

The released captive kept his promise faithfully, and during the time of the Syrian massacres in 1860, he treated with great kindness and consideration the Christians in the East, for which service he was decorated with the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honor.

Democrat and Chronicle (Rochester, New York)

Friday, November 14, 1873, page 1

Article B (original)

Remains of Algerian Hero of 1800s Are Flown Home

ALGIERS, July 4--The remains of Emir el-Hadj Abd-el-Kader, Algeria's great resistance hero of the French occupation in the 19th century, were flown home today from Damascus, Syria.

This transfer of the Emir's remains was proclaimed an official state occasion. Delegations from 40 countries are attending the burial ceremonies today and tomorrow. Also arriving on the special plane were the Emir's descendants living in Syria.

The Emir led an army of 50,000 men against the French forces for 15 years before he surrendered in 1847. He was imprisoned in France until 1853 and then was allowed to live in exile in Damascus, where he died in 1883.

New York Times

Tuesday, July 5, 1966, p. 16

Article C (adapted)

ABD-EL-KADER.

Death of the Noted Algerian Chief--Sketch of His Career.
New York Tribune.

Vocabulary

- **marabout:** a member of the religious and intellectual elite of traditional North African society
- **The Prophet:** Muhammad, founder of Islam
- **seminary:** a religious school

Abd-el-Kader, who died at Damascus [in present-day Syria] recently, was born in 1807 or 1808, in Mascara, an Algerian town in the Province of Oran.* He was of an ancient family of Marabouts, and the son of Muhyi ad-Din, the most respected Marabout of the province, who traced his heritage back to the Prophet.

Abd-el-Kader was educated with his three brothers at the Guetna (a kind of seminary), which was under the direction of his father. He early distinguished himself by his skill at persuasive speech and his knowledge of ancient history, as well as by his religious devotion. He also excelled at physical skills, and he surpassed all his classmates in the management of the horse and sword. The Dey of Algiers, fearing his political abilities, plotted his assassination, and it was at this time that he went to Egypt with his father. He also made the pilgrimage to Mecca.

After the conquest of Algeria by the French, Abd-el-Kader returned home. His father transferred his authority to his son, and Abd-el-Kader began war upon the French on a large scale. As a result of a treaty with the French Gen. Desmichels, Abd-el-Kader became the head of a small monarchy, of which Mascara was the capital.

The peace turned out no more than a truce, and hostilities with the French were renewed. When Abd-el-Kader defeated Gen. Trézel in 1835, Arab enthusiasm and confidence increased, while worry spread through the French army. Gen. Bugeaud now assumed command of the French, and the fortune of war changed. Bugeaud first defeated Abd-el-Kader in 1836.

In the campaign of 1840, Gen. Bugeaud, introduced a new system of attack. He attempted to starve the Arabs into submission. There was also some desperate fighting, and in 1842 Abd-el-Kader was forced to take refuge in Morocco. Abd-el-Kader persuaded the Emperor of Morocco to lend his assistance, but the bombardment of Moroccan ports by the French put an end to Morocco's willingness to help.

It was two years before the great Arab leader was entirely crushed. He surrendered himself to Gen. Lamoriciere, on the condition of being taken to Alexandria [Egypt] or St. Jean d'Arce [Palestine], but the agreement was ignored. Abd-el-Kader and his family were taken to France, where they were imprisoned for four years. When France became an empire in 1852, Abd-el-Kader was released by Louis Napoleon, the new emperor. He was also given a pension of 100,000 francs, on the condition that he not return to Algeria, nor take up arms against France.

He retired to Bursa [in present-day Turkey], but when that town was destroyed by an earthquake in 1855 he went to Constantinople [present-day Istanbul, Turkey]. He then took up his residence at Damascus, where in 1860, he generously aided the Christians during the Druze riots of that year, receiving for his conduct the French Legion of Honor. He visited Egypt in 1864, and about this time he again performed a pilgrimage to Mecca. He visited England in 1865, and Paris during the Exposition of 1867. Being invited to visit France in 1871, he declined on account of ill health. He was the author of a book in Arabic called (in the French translation; Paris, 1858), "Rappel a l'intelligent, Avis a l'indifferent."

Chicago Tribune,
Monday, November 17, 1879, p. 3

* In Abd el-Kader's time, Algeria was not an independent country. Oran was a province of the Ottoman Empire.

Abd-el Kader.

Vocabulary

- **marabout:** a member of the religious and intellectual elite of traditional North African society
- **insurgent:** a person who revolts against an established government
- **contemporary:** belonging to or occurring in the present
- **The Prophet:** Muhammad, founder of Islam

The recent death of this celebrated Arab chief removes another remarkable man from the scene of contemporary history. For nearly twenty years, he maintained an unequal struggle against the power and skill of one of the leading military nations in the world.

Abd-el-Kader was born in 1807 in the province of Oran.* His father was a Marabout, known for his learning and religious devotion, and who claimed to be a descendant of the Prophet. The young Emir distinguished himself by both his intelligence and for his proficiency in all martial exercises. His fame soon alarmed the Turkish Dey of Algiers, and to avoid assassination, Abd-el-Kader fled to Egypt. He and his father returned to Algiers after the French conquest in 1830. When the Marabout refused to accept supreme power in the fight against the French, his son was made the chief of the insurgents.

The power of the young ruler grew soon, and when fighting broke out in 1832, he was able to gather ten thousand mounted men. Following a treaty in 1834, Abd-el-Kader went to work to unite all the Arab tribes of Algeria under his authority. From 1834 to 1840, he defeated Gen. Trézel and Marshal Clausel in several battles, until Gen. Bugeaud, who succeeded Clausel, began a new system of aggressive warfare which finally broke down the power of his opponent. The French burned, destroyed, and killed, reducing most of the Arabs to famine.

Abd-el-Kader still kept up a desperate struggle for several more years, until, finding himself completely hemmed in by superior forces, he dismissed the few remaining followers who had stood by him to the last, and surrendered, with the condition that he and his family would be sent to Alexandria [Egypt] or St. Jean d-Acre [Palestine]. The terms of this surrender, however, were not formally approved by the National Assembly of France, and Abd-el-Kader and his extended family were imprisoned in France.

In 1852, Louis-Napoleon freed Abd-el-Kader. He and extended family settled in Bursa [in present-day Turkey], where he lived until 1855, when he moved to Damascus [in present-day Syria]. In Damascus, Abd-el-Kader used his powerful influence to save the lives of hundreds of Christians in the riots of 1860. For his noble conduct, the French awarded him the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honor.

Abd-el-Kader's sayings have been translated into French and published under the title of "A Reminder to the wise, and advice to the indifferent." They contain evidence of the subtle and imaginative mind of that extraordinary man.

The Times-Picayune (New Orleans, Louisiana)
Sunday, November 16, 1873, page 5

* In Abd el-Kader's time, Algeria was not an independent country. Oran was a province of the Ottoman Empire.

NOTE ON ABD-EL-KADER.

Vocabulary

- **Allah:** the Arabic word for God

The many false rumors of Abd-elKader's death during the last ten years were followed by the publication in most leading newspapers of thorough biographies--so that now, when the Emir is most definitely dead, little remains to be said regarding his career. It is unnecessary to repeat historical facts readily found in any encyclopedia, but there are many facts illustrating the character of the man that are worthy of consideration.

Already the history of Abd-el-Kader has passed into the state of legend in the East; its facts have been transformed into golden fables by the magic of Arabian imagination. Still, legends could scarcely be more wonderful than the true story of Abd-el-Kader's election. Recognized at the age of only twenty-five as educated above his elders in all the wisdom of Islam, and braver than the bravest among those great number of horsemen who strove to sweep the French from Oran in 1832, he was elected emir by the advice of an old, old marabout, Sidi-el-Aratch, whose age was a hundred and ten years.

"I dreamed a dream," declared the ancient, "in which I saw Abd-el-Kader, son of Muhyi ad-Din, seated upon a throne, and administering justice to the Arabs." The nomads roared for his election; and their leaders swore to Muhyi ad-Din that should he refuse to agree, Allah would hold him responsible for the result in the Day of Judgment.

"My son," asked Muhyi ad-Din, "how do you believe that power and justice ought to be applied?"

And the youth answered; "If I were sultan, I would rule the Arabs with a hand of iron; and if the law demanded of me to draw blood from the back of my own brother's neck, truly I would execute the sentence with my own hands."

Never in his long life did Abd el-Kader prove false to his words. In the exercise of power he was severely just and fierce without cruelty. For a youth of twenty-five to hold supreme influence over perhaps half a million Arabs, implies recognition of extraordinary ability among a people who deeply respect age. The few who refused loyalty, like Mustapha-ben-Ismaïl, because "never should a white-bearded warrior kiss the hand of a boy," soon learned that Abd-el-Kader was young only in years: his proclamations, addresses, letters, and messages proved him to be not only a thorough scholar, but a keen reader of hearts; and all that flowed from his pen bears the stamp of originality and genius.

*[The article continues in praise of Abd-el-Kader's writing and includes a long translated poem called "**Praise of the Desert**," which appeared as commentary in General Daumas' book *Les Chevaux du Sahara* (*The Horses of the Sahara*).]*

The beauty of poetic thought survives the translation from Arabic to French to English; and the spirit of the desert quivers in the verses, like a clear wind. One sees the sands stretching away in vast yellow waves, with green patches of herbs and shrubs, relieved by splendid blossom-colors. With the rosiness of sunset, the desert becomes pink under the deepening blue. Night comes, clear and bright, with such pulsing light of stars, that standing upon a hill, the landscape is clearly visible for miles. The air is so pure and clear in the great free silence, that with each breath inhaled one feels new strength and renewed life. Then the fresh awakening with the rose-gold light of desert sunrise, the morning drink of sweet warm milk, the joy of the chase, the rivalry of splendid horses and horsemen in the pursuit of the ostrich or the zebra.

Universally honored as a patriot, respected as a noble and just man--as the greatest Arabian of modern history--the desert prince has passed away into that infinite and sunless desert where even slow Time himself must take his ancient way at last, hopeless of return.

Times Democrat (New Orleans, LA)
Sunday, June 3, 1883, p. 4