

their fellow-man *individually* whenever opportunity occurs. But their duties do not end here. They ought also to desire to improve the condition of the whole human family. A Christian man must not content himself with relieving the distresses of his acquaintances occasionally; if the first Christians had done so, and had neglected to preach the gospel at the hazard of their lives, the name of Christ would probably be scarcely known on the earth in these our days; but in addition to practising benevolence, they also preached the gospel, and laboured for the benefit and advancement of the whole human race *collectively*. And behold the result; very many from among all nations have become true Christians in all ages, from the apostles' days to the present time; and not only so, but about the fourth part of the population of the whole earth have become nominally Christian, and are elevated far above the heathen, inasmuch as they are far more capable of improvement, and much nearer becoming perfect and efficient Christians than the heathen are. It would be a very difficult matter indeed to make any great number of heathens perfect Christians at one step as it were; but it was comparatively easy to convert heathens into Roman Catholics, and Roman Catholics again into Protestants. And among Protestants there is a certain amount of liberty of thought and action; the reasoning and reflecting faculties are exercised in some measure, so that the knowledge of the arts and sciences advances greatly, and men are more or less encouraged to think for themselves and form their own opinions, and the result is that they become in some measure capable of discerning truth from error, good from evil, in reference to spiritual or heavenly things; so that it is very much easier for great numbers of Protestants to become perfect and efficient Christians, than it would be for a great number of heathens to become so.

The *heathen nations* may be represented as at a dead level of ignorance and superstition, and apparent incapacity for improvement or cultivation. The *Mahomedan nations* rise one degree