

moral, and physical emancipation of degraded man. Why, we may ask, have we here, on this continent, such mighty and rapid changes going on ; why are our rivers and lakes ploughed by magnificent steamboats, instead of being skimmed by the tiny canoe of the red man ; why have we on spots, that a few years ago were forests or swamps, the noble street, instead of the Indian trail ; and the elegant mansion, instead of the rude and frail wigwam ; why have we busy commerce, fertile fields, and political and educational advantages unsurpassed on the globe ; why have the howl of the wolf and the warwhoop of the Indian ceased ; and why are security and peace enjoyed, and plenty crowning the industry of the population ? The reply is simple ; it is obvious. Civilisation has been at work ; but still, civilisation is nothing more than a consequence of Christianity.

It is needless to dwell on that point, for the least reflection will satisfy any one that, to a certain extent, prophecy has been fulfilled ; and from ascertained results, we have proof that it is the tendency, as it is in the power, of the Gospel to accomplish what is predicted of its ultimate glories.—Now, we ask, what other system of religion has had, or from its principles could have, such beneficent consequences ? All others have produced the very contrary ; and the proof of this we have already furnished ; for though we may go back to Egypt with its canals, its mechanical skill, its pyramids, its temples, and its sculptures, there were still a social system of castes, and a religion, idolatrous in the extreme, which corrupted and destroyed. Or, though we may go to Greece for Corinthian capitals, and Doric columns, and see there proof of architectural taste, yet the moral sense of the people was blunted, and socially, they were sunk in licentiousness ; and we have no greater right to take these as evidences of high civilisation, than we have to take the enormous stones of Stonehenge, which seem to have formed part of a large Druidical temple, as proving the scientific greatness and civilisation of the ancient Britons ; or the Gothic architecture of Britain in the 13th century as evidence of her philosophy and refinement. No, it is not the architecture of the temple that proves the truthfulness and value of the religion therein maintained ; else, were this the criterion, wrong would often be substituted for right, error for truth, and paganism for Christianity.

From all facts, and all history, we come to the conclusion, that the light of nature, or reason, has failed. Nature erects no cross, proclaims