

skies, where the fight for life is keen and bitter, the propagandist of nebulous notions is likely to be transformed into an adventurer animated by the first principle of egoism, the determination to save oneself. And in the languorous atmosphere of the Tropics, where the joys of life are simple and passionate if not particularly pure, it will require something more than the charm of an abstract idea, a bodiless phantom, however euphonious and impressive the name may be, to create and maintain alive the nobler altruisms of the heart. This is why we need such a religion as Christianity to urge men to the completion of their braver adventures.

Nor ought we to forget the manner in which these men have lived in their far-off homes. They have left the comforts of the West to face the dangers and disappointments of an unknown world. Their simplicity of life, the way in which they have kept the idea of a pure home alive in lands where the very name was unknown, the manner in which they have upheld the holiness of Christian marriage, the noble frugality with which they have often silently rebuked their fellow-countrymen who had learned too soon to appreciate the luxury that comes with power, their earnest pursuit of knowledge under difficulties, as with Morrison in China, Carey in India, mastering intricate tongues and bringing home to the savants of Europe the information they had so hardly acquired, and, above all, the unselfishness of the motive by which they have been driven, the desire to diffuse amongst all nations the truth as they had learned it in Christ, make them worthy of any company of the heroic sons of men.

In the imagination of those who have voyaged the world over upon their occasions, the missionary then figures as the prophet of a greater era, a diviner race. Like Mackenzie, he may be more a man of affairs than of ostentatious piety; or, like Borrow, there may be that element of romance, of mysterious suggestion, in his nature which makes the particular form of his belief insignificant in comparison with the massed weight of his personal authority; or, like Nicholson, he may be one of those born leaders whose code of honour, austere