

lepers are not burned alive ; dying or enfeebled parents are not suffocated with the sand or the water of the sacred rivers by their children ; devotees cannot starve themselves to death or swing their tortured bodies in mid-air from iron hooks ; no longer exists the thug who stealthily slays his victim, and then offers a sacrifice to the goddess Kali.

"It was the Christian missionary," says Dean Hole, "and those who supported them, who proclaimed and denounced the tremendous evils of heathen and Mahomedan India. Branded as fanatics, satirized as fools, they ceased not until one by one these hideous hallucinations were suppressed." It is in this very century that all these beneficent reforms have taken place. In that wonderful country, Japan, called by some the "Great Britain of the East," as late as the year 1868, there was an annual public ceremony of the trampling on the cross, while in every village was set up a great notice board on which appeared the proclamation: "So long as the sun shall warm the earth, let no Christian be so bold as to come to Japan, and let all know that the king of Spain himself, or the Christian's God, or the great God of all, if he violate this command, shall pay for it with his head."

It was no idle threat ever since the wholesale massacre of 30,000 Christians and the extermination of their religion in 1637. Over two centuries passed by, when the American Church gained a footing in 1859. The C.M.S. followed in 1869, and in 1873, when the S.P.G. entered on its work, the publication of all anti-Christian laws was discontinued. In 1876 the Christian Sunday was adopted as a day of rest, and only ten years ago, in 1884, the various orders of Confucianists, Buddhists, and Shintoos were disestablished and disendowed, and complete freedom of religion proclaimed throughout Japan. To day, in this "Land of the Rising Sun," the European traveller and the native Christians are as safe as in our western Dominion, and zealous missionaries are actively at work under the jurisdiction of both English and American bishops. Time would fail did we attempt to tell how in all quarters of the globe civilization has been advanced, the temporal welfare of humanity increased, women liberated and raised in the social scale, children protected, the sick and suffering cared for, the wilderness made to blossom as the rose, and all through the benign influence of the humble missionary's labors in the various continents.

Once more, the Christian missionary goes forth not to exhibit the prowess of man. Yet have many of them by their heroic deeds rivalled the bravery of the three hundred at Thermopylæ, or the six hundred at Balaclava. Such men as Reginald Heber and Henry Martyn, Livingstone, Mackenzie, Selwyn, Pat-

teson, Hannington, Crowther, and Bompas have, even in this unromantic age, compelled the belief that man was created in the likeness of God, "they have kindled new stars, large and lustrous, in the galaxy of sainthood," and while they were spreading the truth abroad they were also flashing love and zeal into the dead hearts in the Church at home. Yes, verily, "the reflex influence of their lives and self-denial has told upon the Church at home, while, apart from their influence, the entire history of important portions of the world would have been altered."

In reality, the Christian missionary goes forth to turn men from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God ; to tell the simple story of the cross ; proclaim the love of God in Christ and the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit ; and none but the most prejudiced will deny that he has been successful.

An eminent American journalist, writing in a leading periodical, declares that "no person who has ever heard the bitter cry of Asiatic womanhood will speak flippantly of Christian missions," and he states that in the decade from 1880 to 1890, while in the United States the communicants among Episcopal Methodists increased 31 per cent., among Congregationalists 33, in the Protestant Episcopal Church 35, the increase in Bombay was over 61 per cent.; and yet there is but one missionary to every half a million in that land. "The blue books," states the Governor of that Presidency, "acknowledge the obligation under which the government lies to the missionaries, whose blameless example and self-denying labors are infusing new vigor into the stereotyped life of India's enormous population, and are preparing them in every way to be better men and better citizens of the great empire."

Years ago Keshub Chunder Sen said : "It is Christ who really rules British India, and not the British Government." Of a truth, the so-called Light of Asia has been powerless to show the dimly-groping natives the way to eternal life ; but, *laus Deo*, the True Light, now shineth. Just now the eyes of the world are turning still further east, and none can tell what will be the issue of the deadly conflict between the Empires of China and Japan. It is estimated that the Christians in the latter most progressive country now number 80,000. And it is a striking fact that the first Protestant church in Japan was built with money contributed by the native Christians of Hawaii, after a missionary meeting, as a thank-offering for the knowledge of the Gospel of Christ.

"Do you think," asked the captain of the ship that took Dr. Morrison to China less than fifty years ago—"do you think you can make an impression on the hundreds of millions of Chinese?" "No," was the reply, "*but God can.*" To-day, notwithstanding the incredible