

into spiritual activity. It has melted into contrition the most obdurate savage heart, and enchained its wayward, roving desires and imperious impulses, ay, and purified and regulated them too with a fascination and a power vastly surpassing anything that fables yet have feigned or fear conceived. In a thousand instances it has made the thievish honest, the lying truthful, the churl liberal, the extravagant frugal. It has in a thousand instances converted the cruel, unfeeling heart into kindness and goodwill; it has turned the discord of frantic revelry into the harmonies of sacred song. It has wrought its way into the darksome caverns of debasing ignorance, and illumined them with the rays of celestial light; it has gone down into the dens of foulest infamy, and reared altars of devotion there, in upright hearts and pure; it has mingled its voice with the raging tempest, and hung the lamp of a glorious immortality over the sinking wreck. It has, as we have heard in the Report, alighted upon the gory battle field, and poured the balm of consolation into the soul of the dying hero. It has, on an errand of mercy, visited the loathsome dungeon, braved the famine, confronted the pestilence and plague. It has wrenched the iron rod from the grasp of oppression, and dashed the fiery cup from the lips of intemperance. It has strewed flowers over the grave of old enmities, and woven garlands round the columns of the temple of peace. These are but a few of the mighty achievements which follow as a retinue of splendour in the train of that blessed Book which circulates all over the world. * * * Christianity may languish in the individual soul; it may go out of it altogether, or out of the organism of a particular Church; but Christianity itself never dies. It is the only true metempsychosis in the world. It transmigrates from country to country; it perpetuates itself from age to age, and will continue to do so, until the whole world is turned into a globe of shining light and beauty. Well, then, let us arise, and, by our decisive deeds, more decisive than ever—not by mere words,

Which drop like snow-flakes on a river,
A moment white, then gone for ever—

let us prove to these men, who proudly and arrogantly style themselves men of advanced thought, that their decision in this matter is wrong; that though Christianity may seem to be sleeping, may slumber in the mausoleums of a barren profession, it is as a giant sleeping, so that when he awaketh he will have power to convulse and renovate the nations. Let us arise and go forth, humble and devoted, cheered by the songs of the ancient warriors of the cross, and the triumphs achieved by them through the might of that very Word which, as the good Bishop reminded us to-day, "liveth and abideth for ever." At the time of the great Reformation, it again burst forth in all the effulgence of its primitive lustre. Since then, it has survived the fires and the horrors of the Inquisition, the terrible confederacy of Jesuitism, the blight and mildew of British infidelity, the impious socialisms and atheisms of France, the infamous pantheisms, and rationalisms of Germany. Ay, and it has survived, as we have heard from the Report, in the midst of innumerable changes that have subverted once powerful dynasties, and scattered to the winds of heaven the proudest memorials of human glory and the stateliest monuments of human power. And it will still survive the shakings of nations, outlast the corruptions of human depravity, and flourish and triumph when the Koran of the Mussulman, the Talmud of the Rabbinit, the Zendavesta of the Parsee, the Vedas of the Brahmin, the demoralising theories of the Socialist and Materialist, the blasphemous dogmata of the Pantheist and the Rationalist, the lying legends of the Papist, and the truth-perverting traditions of the Romanising Ritualist, are all consigned, in undistinguishable dishonour, to a common grave, with no one from pole to pole to act the part of chief mourner at the funeral. And it will still continue to flourish and to triumph when all the kingdoms of the world, and all the lordly hierarchies of idolatry and superstition, are for ever swallowed up and lost amid the overpowering glories of the Messiah's reign."