

toward the goal of death and oblivion. And from this standpoint, as from no other, may one measure the greatness and glory of the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

For this corruption and gloom of paganism, the preaching of Christ crucified is the only and never-failing remedy. The messenger to-day, like the great prophet on the banks of the Jordan, exclaims, "Behold the Lamb of God, who removes the world's sin." It is historically certain that wherever the Gospel has gained a strong and vital hold of pagan peoples, it has been through the preaching of the Cross, as the supreme manifestation of the suffering love of God. And evermore the strength of the church has been not the disclosure of a human virtue so eminent as to be called divine, but the revelation of a divine nature so loving as to become human in its limitations, in its lowliness of spirit.

The Church of Christ was not to rise from the bones of martyred saints and to be filled with the memories of human sanctity; such a church would not survive the assaults of evil. The Christian Temple was to rise from the foundation of God's own nature disclosed in the Man of Nazareth, and its altars were to flame with offerings made to the crucified Lord of Glory. Men struck with sin and smitten with moral death and overwhelmed with despair, listen with feeble interest to the story of a fellow man, who, whether his name be Socrates or Buddha, in a distant age, rose above the wretched conditions around him to a lofty height of virtue. But the world is being regenerated by the story of Him who was the Word of God, dwelling among men, and who, for love's sake, humbled Himself unto the death of the Cross. Wherever this truth of the divinity of Him who suffered for human sin has been received, there and there alone has the church presented a doctrine strong enough to cope with Hindu pantheism and to give the soul its full deliverance and enfranchisement.

What other faith has such a clear, decisive, and satisfying message to carry it to the fear-haunted and defiled sanctuary of the human spirit? Nothing else has answered the question, "How can the heart and hand that have been crimsoned with sin be cleansed?" Other remedies do not go to the root of the disease, but Christianity does. It undertakes and accomplishes the greatest of all tasks. How it does it we may not adequately tell. That it does it, we surely know. And indeed we may now rightly appropriate and adapt to our use the old legend of the man fallen into the pit. The modern humanitarian comes along and seeing his distressed brother, reaches to him a hand of help, but the arm is too short and the strength too feeble. More than a year ago, in Trinity Church, Boston, Dr. Edward Everett Hale said, in the presence of General Booth, "I believe in the Salvation Army," and then he told the story of a drunkard in his congregation whom for years he had tried to rescue by means of his own gentle and graceful ethics, but he failed. This drunkard, he said, "had

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