

fact. The prophets have partially drawn aside the veil, and enabled us to have a collection of vivid glimpses of the future. The pen of inspiration has given the grand outlines of the gospel when in its perfect work. And is it to be doubted, or denied, that such delineations cannot be realised? Look at the principles of the Bible, and the nature of their operations, and can such success be doubted? We see in the religion of Jesus not merely the means by which the soul may be sanctified and saved, and a celestial state of perfection eternally obtained; but also the principles and sure directory for every thing that is great and good, for true civilisation, intelligence, and human happiness. We cannot set a limit to it, short of prophetic description, without acknowledging that it has some weak point, some defect, and that it is not competent to the work of successfully overcoming sin and all its consequences.

Let us glance at present results. Compare Christian countries—and even the best of them are very far from being properly Christianised, but compare them as they are with heathen lands—and is there not already, to a certain extent, a fulfilment of predictions? Is it to be esteemed a strange, or an impossible thing, that the desert can be reclaimed, and become abundantly fertile? Already it has been done, and many a barren track is now converted, by industry and intelligence, into fruitfulness; and many a bleak region of marshes, whose miasmata spread death around it, is now luxuriant with plenty for man and beast, and is become a scene of rural beauty, health and happiness. When the gospel was written, Britain exhibited as miserable a physical and moral spectacle as could well be conceived. Its barbarian inhabitants were separated into fierce tribes, and roaming in painted nakedness in their savage freedom, and contending with each other in sanguinary strife. They had the sun and moon as divinities, and idols of wood and of stone, with imaginary attributes as fierce, and with a worship as gross as ever can be found in heathen lands; and there were the Druids' mystic circles, in which every superstition was hallowed, and the horrid altars on which human sacrifices were freely offered. And what has produced so marvellous a change, that, that glorious little island is now the bright spot to which the liberty of the world looks for help, and the darkness of the world looks for light? It is because Christianity there planted her foot, and lighted her torch, and fixed her throne; and there may she ever hold empire, that the rock of Albion may be the security for the spiritual,