

accustomed to deal. It has all the enormity of systematic cruelty to children; it is a conspiracy by representatives of civilized nations against simple tribes of men who know not what they do. On such an issue the humane and pitiful of every name—Protestant or Catholic, Christian or unchristian—should unite their common protest.

The proofs that the rum traffic among the African tribes tends to destroy all other departments of trade, are so numerous and so well known that I need not dwell upon them. It is enough that this accursed evil blights all hope of the present generation, that even those who had begun to gather about them the comforts of civilization have gone back to barbarism—that women who had learned something of modesty have again discarded clothing that all their resources may be expended for drink. But the evil is not confined to the present; it incapacitates the people for future commerce and thrift; it casts a blight upon those whose hopes have been turned toward Central Africa as a great field of true commerce. Never before has Christendom made so gratuitous a concession to the sordid gains of a few unscrupulous business firms—one which involved so great a cost to national honor, to the fair name of the Christian Church, and to the best interests of millions of mankind.

No doubt great discouragements beset this question, and many whose sympathies are really touched are nevertheless hopeless of results. We may be very sure that the representatives of the liquor traffic are quietly but effectively exerting their influence to thwart every effort made in the interest of humanity. I am informed that at Washington an agent is employed by the "liquor interests," whose whole time and energy are employed to baffle all attempts supposed to conflict with their business.

But, on the other hand, what are some of our encouragements to effort?

First, the fact that so much has already been done to arouse public sentiment on the subject. I refer to the various public meetings which have been held in London, and especially to the formation of a working committee representing the Missionary Societies of Great Britain.

Second, that the constituencies represented here are so vast and may be so influential. Mr. W. T. Hornaday, of Washington, D. C., has pertinently asked: "Who are the more powerful, the traders who desire to enrich themselves out of the palm oil purchased with gin, or the Christian nations which were represented at the Berlin Conference, with their 388,000,000 of Christians? America has sixty-five foreign missionary societies, Great Britain seventy-two, and the Continent of Europe fifty-seven, not including those of the Roman Catholic Church. Are they not strong enough to cope with the rum traffic on the Congo?"

A third encouragement is found in the fact that a united movement