

strength and superiority of Mohammedanism into an argument in its behalf, and that brought a rejoinder from the audience that there would be more converts from the false prophet to Christ but for the death penalty attached to such conversion.

V. This Parliament of Religions was a mistake, *in substituting laxity for liberality*. Charity is not tolerance of error.

We have heard of a certain man who described the change in his condition after conversion by saying, "Before that I loved the devil and hated the Lord; *now I love them both*." Is it no misconception of the love which is the royal law, if we construe it as implying indifference to fundamental distinctions? Does charity preside in a conclave where the religion of Christ sits without protest on equal terms with many whose tenets and practices can be traced only to the devil whom they worship?

It is all well enough to talk in vague encomium about the "light of Asia;" but the fact still remains that, notwithstanding, dense darkness covers the lands where it shines. Bishop Brooks, the broad churchman, greatly disappointed some of his "liberal" friends who expected him to deal very reverently with the ancient Oriental forms of faith and worship, when his "Letters of Travel" unveiled the enormity and deformity of heathenism, the debasing superstition and repulsive obscenity gilded over by religious names and worshipped in religious fanes. Even in the holy city, Benares, he stumbled at every step on a temple with a hideous idol, and ignorance muttering prayers to Vishnu or Siv.

Mrs. Isabella Bird Bishop writes :

"We are getting into a sort of milk-and-water view of heathenism; not of African heathenism alone, but of Buddhism, Hinduism, and Mohammedanism also. Missionaries come home, and they refrain from shocking audiences by recitals of the awful sins of the heathen and Moslem world. When travelling in Asia it struck me very much how little we heard, how little we knew as to how sin is enthroned and deified and worshipped. There is sin and shame everywhere. Mohammedanism is corrupt to the very core. It is astonishing to find that there is scarcely a single thing that makes for righteousness in the life of the unchristianized nations. There is no public opinion interpenetrated by Christianity which condemns sin or wrong. There is an infinite degradation of both women and men. The whole continent of Asia is corrupt. It is the scene of barbarities, tortures, brutal punishments, oppression, and official corruption. There are no sanctities of home, only a fearful looking for in the future of fiery indignation from some quarter, they know not what; a dread of everlasting rebirths into forms of obnoxious reptiles or insects, or of tortures which are infinite, and which are depicted in pictures of fiendish ingenuity."

VI. The crowning mistake of this Parliament of Religions was the fatal blunder of at least implying that *salvation is not in Christ alone*. And in so far, the Parliament was and still is the foe of Christian missions, and has already done measureless harm.

The Christian faith was there held up as one—albeit the *best*—among many religions. No doubt God "has in every nation those who work