

of ethics. But Christianity has an ideal ethics because it has the conception of a life that is perfect. More than that, this perfect, ideal life is present in an example, and, what is of infinite importance, with motives large enough to give effect to the highest virtues. Christianity has future life that leaves nothing even for the imagination to conceive. This expansiveness in growth, this power to reach a higher and ever higher life, indicates and assures the destiny of the Christian religion as supreme, universal. Sometimes we are asked to look at the numbers ministered to by the great ethnic religions. Buddhism, with its 400 millions; Moham-medanism, with its 200 millions, staggers. We must always keep in view the fact that it is not a question of the greatest numbers, but of the greatest excellence. When Jesus Christ stood in the midst of his twelve disciples there stood the supreme—the universal Church. When the Holy Ghost fell on one hundred and twenty men and women in an upper chamber in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost—there was the supreme church. The judgment of five artists on a work of art outweighs the judgment of five million savages. It is not a question of numbers. It is the inherent power of indefinite development that will decide. The religion that will finally prevail is not that which now boasts of the highest numbers, but that which has in it the most inherent life—that which can bring the individual man and the community of men to the highest possible perfection. Christianity will do this. Christianity is doing this. When the sun arises there is no need of gas lamps. There is no limit to the development of Christianity. Man soon outstrips the limits of all other religions, but he can reach no condition of advancement to which Christianity will not be adapted; no moral standpoint to which she cannot say,—higher.

All other religions are but at best deformed torsos of the truth. Christianity is the perfect statue, in all its power and beauty. We may appeal to the verdict of fact and history. The progressive, growing, governing nations of the world today are all Christian. Inadequately as the Christian religion