

finding the ignorant and the learned alike. I need not stop to tell you again this oft repeated story, but I cannot discharge the duty that has been entrusted to me without saying that notwithstanding all the grand and glorious work that has been done, the day for the work of the Bible Society has not passed by many a year.

What are some of the facts to-day? I look around me, and I find—I speak without mathematical exactness, but correctly enough—I find that two-thirds of the people of my family never see a copy of that sacred book. I find that two-thirds of my race living to-day never see the sign of the cross, never hear the name of Christ, do not know the meaning of the door of Heaven, open to all mankind, going on in the darkness of their pagan rites and superstitious and idolatrous condition, into the uncertainties that await the heathen. Two-thirds of the human family! What does it mean? Let me talk to a few of the children that are here to-night, and try to convey some idea of what it means. Eight hundred millions of people! Plant yourself there and let them come in at this door, and go out at that at the rate of one every second, and you will find it pretty rapid work to hurry all past you, keeping it up for twelve hours a day—gentlemen do not work for twelve hours a day, women do, because they cannot strike; but as this is special work we will let you keep at it twelve hours a day—you will have to live a fifty years or more before you could count off at that rate the members of my family and yours, my brothers and yours, who never see the Bible, who never heard the promise of salvation which it brings to mankind. Where are they going? What is the Christian world going to do for them in this Christian age? And that is not all. There have not been more than one hundred and seventy million copies of the Bible printed since the world began—not more than one hundred and seventy million copies! Why that is not more than enough for one copy for each Christian family, according to the computation of the most reliable statisticians. Then go further, take this two-thirds of the human race; suppose their numbers do not increase, suppose the pagan population do not multiply, to keep up their numbers, every time yonder sun knocks at the doors of the east and lets in the morning, it flings its rays upon the faces of eighty thousand new-born babes, and these babes crying with their earliest breath, send up to Heaven with that cry a protest before the Throne of Almighty God, a protest, an accusation against Christendom, for allowing them to be born to that heritage of paganism and darkness. And why? Some of them pass through the fire, some through the water, some live but to be eaten as food, others grow up and fill the places of their monstrous parents! Oh, the spectacle that the human race presents to-day! Three times prior to the year 1882, the great American Bible Society began the work of supplying every home of every nationality in the United States with a copy of the Scriptures, and in order to do this work the plan was that every house should be visited, and enquiry made; three times it was done, and yet, in view of the rapid increase in the population by immigration, the American Bible Society had to undertake that work again in the year 1882. It began the work for the fourth time, and visited in one year three million families, and found that three hundred and ninety-four thousand eight hundred and forty-four of the families in the Christian United States were then without a copy of the Scriptures.

Now, my brothers, I am not going to take up time at this hour of the evening. I came here just to fill in with these few practical words, and I would ask you, as the collection-plate passes around, not to become so loyal that you see nothing to admire but the Queen's head. While we will all shout and sing "God Save our Gracious Queen," and encourage brother Pattison by assuring him that we intend to waken the echoes and astonish the skies in