

After elaborately discussing the *argumentatively demonstrative* and the *practically demonstrative* evidences of Christianity, the venerable Doctor continued :

"I hold that the reading of this Report to-day is one of the grandest evidences of the truth and divinity of the Bible. There is something about the Bible after all, a power and an influence which no other book possesses. What is it that has brought this immense audience together? Not the sweepings of the streets, assuredly; not the low, the vulgar, the uneducated: the very *élite* of the Christian people of England are assembled here to-day, men of all ranks and professions in life, to do homage to the Bible, and, in proof of the reality of their convictions, to give up their tens and thousands and hundreds of thousands of pounds to get it translated into all the languages of the earth, and circulated through all families of mankind. And what are the meetings that have been assembled here during the last few days, and will assemble for days to come? Have they not met to raise up men who shall go forth as a little army for the translation of this blessed Book and the proclamation of its message to those who come within its reach? I say there is a power and an influence indicated by these facts which belong to no other book. Take the books of these learned men, these mighty savans who are up in the heights above the clouds, in their own wisdom; and tell me what meetings have they held, what thousands of pounds have they contributed, what army have they sent forth, in order to circulate their books and translate them for the benefit of all people in all lands? * * * The question here arises, and it is a practical one, How has the Bible this power and influence so immeasurably beyond anything that any other books have? What is it? How is it? They themselves as philosophers are bound to answer the question. An effect must have a cause—a cause adequate and commensurate to produce it. Why is it that their books are so powerless? Why is that the Bible is so powerful? I say it is a fair question, and they are bound to answer it. We can answer it. Here is the reason: whilst the Bible undoubtedly professes most effectually to seek the highest temporal welfare of man, its chief end and aim is of a more transcendental kind; of a kind which one is grieved to say these learned men cannot perhaps even understand, much less sympathise with. It is this higher, diviner, nobler end or aim which has brought thousands together here this day;—it is this higher, diviner, nobler aim, even that of saving immortal souls through the incarnation, the sacrificial atoning death, blood, and righteousness of God's own eternal Son;—it is the marvellous story of redeeming love, a story of unspeakable tenderness in which the scheme of redemption is unfolded, with the solemnity of its sanctions, the vitalising force of its motives, the faithfulness of its warnings, the alluring sweetness of its promises, the grandeur and magnificence of its promised reward;—it is this which has in reality segregated hundreds and thousands of men and women of refined and cultured minds from the homes, ay! and often from the sepulchres of their fathers—which has prevailed upon them to relinquish the society of beloved friends, with their endearing associations and fellowships, and to go forth into the very heart of the wildernesses and moral wastes of heathenism, and even jeopardise their lives, as my friend on my right (Mr. Moffat) has done, in the high places of barbarism. * * What we have to testify then is this, that within the memory of many here present this Bible message, this articulate message of peace and pardon, and friendliness and kindness and goodwill to all men, has, by the heralds of salvation, been actually girdling the whole zone of this globe of ours. Yes, unrelaxed by torrid heat, unbenumbed by arctic cold, it can point to trophies of the cross in every clime. * * It has arrested and tamed marauding hordes of the wilderness, making them fling away their beads and their bones, ay, and their paint and their feathers which only tended to make nakedness itself more hideous. It has pierced into the crassest heathen intellect, and roused into action its slumbering faculties and quickened them