

theological student cannot know too much as to the way in which religion, in its many and varied forms, has influenced the minds and hearts of men in all ages, in all lands.

his subject has been emphasized as one especially essential to the student preparing for missionary work in foreign lands. It is certainly right that he should seek to know as much as possible, before going out, of the modes of thinking, convictions, motives and controlling forces of the men he proposes to convert. But is it not a practical subject for the minister who stays at home, in enabling him to give a more intelligent support to mission work and in the pleading of its claims? He will have a clearer knowledge of the work to be done and the difficulties to be overcome. The study of the religions of the world in comparison with and contrast to the religion of Christ, cannot but be helpful in any effort to stimulate and intensify missionary zeal in the Church. It is the vindication of missions.

Further, this study is in itself a fascinating one, and has many intrinsic advantages as a means of culture. What study is better calculated to bring us in contact with the heart of humanity? What subject can make us more conscious of the great needs of humanity? What subject is more suited to call out our sympathy towards the deepest yearnings of humanity, or create in us an enthusiasm for humanity? If "the proper study of mankind is man," the study of man from the religious point of view may surely claim to be the crown of all humanistic studies. What study will better enable us to realize the meaning of religion?—make us more distinctly conscious of the profound fact of man's religious nature—the religion behind all religions? What study is better calculated to broaden the mind, and widen the sympathies of the heart, than the contemplation, in particulars, of this great universal fact of religion and its various manifestations in human history?

As we pursue this subject it becomes apparent, as never before, that man needs something more than any ethnic religion supplies. We see the unique relation of the Christian religion to the world's need as we never did before.