

Dawn of Tomorrow

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Editorial

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CHRISTENDOM.

Said Christ our Lord 'I will go and see How the men my brethren believe in me.'

The fact that the clash between the races is due most of all, to the expansion of power of the Christian nations of the earth, drives the responsibility for a solution of this problem home to Christendom. Christianity or its people has marched from the West eastwards, fastening its habits, customs and its mode of commerce upon other nations, penetrating their lives in a manner that is both ruthless and heartless. In most cases it has not assumed a Christianlike attitude among the natives with whom it has come in contact, nor has it made earnest efforts to know these people better, nor has it sought an understanding fellowship with them. On the other hand, a double standard has been set up—one for the heathen, which points him to Christ, another for itself, which has all the ear-marks of greed, lust, avarice and an attitude of racial superiority. For instance, "in Africa," declares Dr. Zwemmer, "the strength of Islam is a religious pride which transcends all race, and the weakness of Christianity is a racial pride which breaks up religion. Negroes are being won to Islam on the failure of Christianity to live up to the principle of the Founder, on the race problem."

One of the most oft repeated wishes of Jesus when He was on earth was that we love one another as He had loved us. He also wished that the strong should help to bear the infirmities of the weak. But to-day those who carry His banner among the heathens have reversed this order. The weak are compelled to bear the burden of the world. Witness the system in Shanghai which works little children and women in shifts of twelve hours a day for a miserable pittance; or the squalor and filth of the dwellings of the industrial operators around Bombay; or the uncanny slums in which mill workers are forced to live in Kobe, Japan; or the forced labor system of Africa which takes thousands of youths from the African tribal life and compels them to work in the gold and diamond mines; or the act of the South African Parliament (The Colour Bar Bill)

which prohibits the natives becoming skilled artisans. All of these gracious acts have followed the introduction of Christianity into heathen countries. And they were done by Christian nations in the name of "industrial revolution." They are done in order to amass wealth to the Glory of God and Christianity. "Have you founded your thrones and alter then. On the bodies and souls of living men?"

In South Africa 80 per cent. of the native population is on the land, with a rapidly increasing population and with a diminishing amount of available land, due to the government's policy of confiscating their land, congestion among the natives is becoming one of the greatest crimes of the age.

"I have heard the dropping of their tears, In heaven these eighteen hundred years"

Wherever Western civilization and with it Christianity has touched, the lives of weaker peoples, and especially if these people are dark of skin, it has sought to impress them with the doctrine of superiority and inferiority. Jesus Christ, the heathen and the weaker ones are still waiting for the kind of Christianity which will "stay put." Christ is still waiting for the fulfilment of His fervent prayer "That they all may be as one."

"But still wherever His steps they led The Lord in sorrow bent down His head."

Within a few short hours all Christendom will be aglow with the Christmas spirit, the spirit of giving which is a token of peace and good will. Millions of dollars will be spent in pursuance of this spirit and some of the crumbs will even fall to the poor and needy, to the underprivileged millions of the world. This is of course right and in accordance with His great wish. But how much more pleased would He be during this season should some of these millions be diverted to eradicating the causes of poverty, injustice, oppression, greed and avarice.

"O Lord and Master, not ours the guilt, We build but as our fathers built; Behold thine image as they stand Sovereign and Soul through all our land."

* * *

"Then Christ sought out an artisan And a motherless girl whose fingers thin Pushed from her gently, want and sin, Then sat he, in the midst of them; And as drew back their garment's hem For fear of defilement, 'Lo here' said He The images you have made of me."

CHRISTMAS CONCERTS.

* * *

Both the Baptist and Methodist Sunday School Concerts are to be held the present week. Both schools have been working hard with the children for the occasion and we expect considerable entertainment at both churches.

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