

at, it may  
n time has  
r the wel-  
pire which  
with the  
gratitude,  
d save the

ey of her  
the nation  
d reasons  
mpire now  
lobe, and,  
paramount  
hroughout  
the mar-

Australia,  
population  
ign. She  
dark con-  
tion, and  
lties, of a  
welfare of  
rcement of  
ved to see  
alour, and  
millions in  
quarter, to  
as lived to  
n colonies

in commerce and wealth and knowledge, and the happy federation of widely-separated provinces into one great Dominion.

The reign of Queen Victoria marks an era of progress unparalleled, one might almost say, in the history of the world. Within the sixty years which it embraces, there have sprung up many of the agencies which now minister to the convenience and comfort of mankind. The railway, the steamship, the various electrical appliances have won their splendid triumphs. Knowledge of all kinds has become more widely diffused, and more accurate in its investigations. In spite of the alleged utilitarianism of the age, the galaxy of poets about her throne rivals that of the great Elizabeth, while every department of literature contains some worthy name.

Nor for these things alone will the Victorian era live on the page of history. The chief glory of these sixty years is essentially Christian in its character. They have witnessed a vigorous and partly successful attempt to improve the condition of the poor, to suppress hideous forms of vice whether in the hovel or the mansion, to bring the good news of a Divine Redeemer to the heathen abroad and the heathen at our doors, to live as though we really believed in a common Father and in a common brotherhood of human souls.

It would be, indeed, too much to say that we have yet reached the ideal of a Christian nation, fearing God and working righteousness in all the departments of national and individual life. The greater our gifts, the