

new century, not even the most enthusiastic seer could give us the faintest foreshadowing of the possible grandeur of the future of mankind !

In studying our age, it is of the highest importance to appreciate the *time factor* in human history—the fitness and the fulness of the times. But one fit time and but one full time ever comes to any man or to the race. Then, if ever, the door must be entered ; then, if ever, the work must be done. Delay means disaster, and sometimes destruction. If the work for which God gives us the season—the seasonable hour—is not then wrought, it can in most cases never be done ; or, if at all, only out of season and at disadvantage, amid unfavorable conditions.

VI. OUR FOES.—No careful, calculating man will stop with the more hopeful vision of progress. Humanity never had to face foes more numerous nor more deadly. If this is the promised land and age, the giant sons of Anak are in the midst of us with their walled cities and chariots of iron. In presence of some of them we feel ourselves to be as grasshoppers, so insignificant and impotent have even Christian nations proven in coping with these colossal, destructive forces of society.

Dr. G. W. Samson has mentioned four forms of intoxication and idolatry : those of the imaginative, nervous, generative, and acquisitive centres and powers of man's being ; and the "strong drink" on which these respectively debauch themselves are the theatre and the novel for the imagination ; alcohol and opium and tobacco for the nerves ; lust and sensuality for the generative system, and greed and Mammon for the faculty of acquisition.

Perhaps the most formidable foe of human health and happiness is the *drink habit*. Whatever may be said to vindicate or extenuate the use of intoxicants, the awful fact remains that the main cause of disease and death, of vice and crime, of poverty and misery, of vagrancy and lunacy, is RUM ! The natural tendency of the use of all forms of spirituous liquors is toward abuse. "Be not drunk with wine, *wherewith is excess*." In the United States alone the total consumption of distilled spirits, wines, and malt liquors is 900,000,000 gallons annually, or nearly fifteen gallons *per capita*. In Great Britain and Ireland the annual expenditure is still worse. In the United States it is about \$900,000,000 (£180,000,000) a year, and growing, for a population of 66,000,000. But in Great Britain, for less than 40,000,000 people, it was, in 1891, over \$706,000,000 (£140,000,000), and for beer alone over \$390,000,000 (£78,000,000). "Enough spent for beer to provide the country with two navies and armies, and with the civil service thrown in," says the *London Times* ; "enough to pay the interest on the national debt for three years ; or, if funded for nine years, to pay the whole debt and leave no more annuities or interest to pay."

Judges and magistrates affirm that at least seven tenths of all crime and acts of violence are traceable to the use of strong drink. One philanthropist quaintly says that in nine cases out of ten *murder* finds its secret in