

moment, an enquiry into the state of the *heathen*, will be found sufficient to excite compassion. Their *worship* is impure, cruel, degrading, enough to make us ashamed of our common nature. The sun, the moon, the stars, the human form, stocks, stones, animals, the vilest reptiles these, these are your gods, O Gentile nations! As to the vices of the heathen, these, had we no other criterion by which to judge, we might learn from the nature of their worship. But we see them exhibited in the lives and manners of the heathen at home. If, indeed, the sword of civil justice, with all its authority, the word God with all its allurements and all its terrors, the gospel ministry, with all its power and importance, reason with all her light and advantages, conscience with all its stings and reproaches, and the lives of christians with all their charms, are insufficient to restrain individuals from vice, what must be the state of those in *Pagan* lands? where the criminal in many cases is his own judge where the lamp of revelation never shone, or where the light is extinguished, where pious teachers are unknown, where degraded reason is without a guide, where the eyes of the understanding are closed, where conscience is sealed by habitual sin, and where an universal corruption of manners prevails?

The Committee feel the more anxious for the benighted heathen, because the cases of many of them are such, as to be beyond the reach of aid from the British and Foreign Bible Society, one of the noblest Institutions ever devised by man for the relief and improvement of his species. There are millions of them who *cannot read*, and to whom the scriptures alone can be of no use, while they remain in that condition. Nor is this all, for there are millions both in *Africa*, and *Asia*, among whom there is no *written language*, and where none but Missionaries can do any thing. Under such circumstances, the work must all be done by oral instructions. With these views, it is affecting to be informed, by a list of Missionaries lately published, that there have not yet 250 PROTESTANT *Missionaries* gone forth, under the direction of the different sects of Christians in *Europe*, to instruct and evangelize the many hundreds of millions of Pagans and Mussulmans. In the grand work before us, and in which so many feel deeply interested, we are encouraged to proceed by the *example* of the brightest characters of the present and of former ages. The *Evangelists*, and the *Apostles*, were all Missionaries; not only in *spirit*, but in *practice*. And the *People*, far from being indifferent and inactive, lighted their lamps, at the missionary torch of the Apostles; and becoming lights in the world, they themselves lighted the way, and directed their fallen fellow creatures to eternal glory. Hence, we hear the Apostles commending the Thessalonians for their zeal. "From you," says he, "sounded out the word of the Lord, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place, your faith toward God, is spread abroad." These words in a restricted sense may be applied to *British Christians*. The members of the *Establishment*, the *Baptists*, the *Moravians*, the *Independents*, all seem to be pro-