

observers in India, China, Japan, those three foremost Oriental empires, cannot hide from themselves the fact that their ancestral faiths have no firm foundation ; and that, whatever truth is built into them, it is a foreign addition, a purer metal that may mingle but will not mix with the baser clay. The Christian faith is consistent and coherent, pure, perfect because divine.

In the South Seas, to-day, the natives have learned to link in their thoughts every beneficent result with the gospel's introduction and prevalence. Their very idioms of speech are a revelation. Their simple classification is this : "This is a missionary man ; this, *no* missionary man," according as they detect on the one hand honesty, integrity, generosity ; or on the other meanness, treachery, and deceit. Such testimony is not only spontaneous, it is involuntary and unconscious. It belongs to the ethics of language. Certain convictions of mankind stamp themselves on human speech. The word *miser* is the unconscious testimony of humanity to the wretchedness of greed. And so the term, missionary, has come to have a moral meaning to the savage and cannibal. It stands for heroism, honesty, self-denial, love. And it would take more than Canon Taylor to shake this solid bastion in the fortress of missionary success ; it rests on the bed-rock of the popular consciousness.

The most conspicuous mark of God's hand in missions is perhaps this : the progress of missionary advance has been supernaturally rapid. In the Hawaiian Isles, in five years, results were reached that mere human power could never have compassed ; and ordinary Christian activity would have been fitly rewarded if such results had crowned the work of fifty years. The triumphs of the gospel among the Karens were like the strides of a giant with his "seven-league" boots in comparison with the common rate of progress. As to Japan, President Seelye, at a meeting of the American Board, Syracuse, calmly affirmed in 1879, and it was confirmed by that immense assembly, that "never before had the gospel wrought such great and speedy changes as during the previous seven years in Japan." He said : "It is not only the most remarkable chapter in the history of modern missions, but there is nothing in the history of the world to compare with it. We talk about the early triumphs of Christianity ; but the early records of the Church, bright as they may be, pale in the light of what is taking place before our eyes at the present time. Even Madagascar offers nothing to compare with Japan." Africa was for thousands of years emphatically the dark continent ; yet so rapidly is missionary exploration going forward that our maps of yesterday are scarce accurate to-day, and will be obsolete to-morrow. At Harpoot, on the Euphrates, we find one little mission church multiplying itself into fourteen, with four hundred and eighteen church members, eleven native pastors—more than half of them supported by these native churches—twelve