

Which will see the human family fulfilling its destiny on earth in the complete realization of all that the beneficent Creator has designed, and all it is possible for man to achieve in the last and highest phase of civilization.

And what is Civilisation? The etymology of the word points plainly enough to the refinement of the citizen contrasted with the coarseness of the rustic. Its accepted and legitimate signification is, the superiority of man in a state of culture above man in a barbaric condition. Civilisation then is the degree of *advantageous change effected in the character and circumstances of man, and measuring his distance from savage life*. Its actual value is to be tested by an examination of the kind of benefits it confers and the extent to which they are enjoyed. That civilisation is the highest and best which most successfully elevates the individual and most widely diffuses its blessings throughout society and the world. Man's physical, intellectual, and moral nature are the things with which it has to deal—ministering to the wants, developing the capacities and remedying the evils belonging to each. The Health, Intelligence, and Morality of any community or age, are the component elements of its civilisation. Its Health, because it is the sure evidence of the extent to which all classes are properly housed, fed, clothed, employed and enabled to enjoy life. Its Intelligence, because it includes the things known, the numbers who know them and the uses to which that knowledge is applied. Its Morals, because they are the basis of personal characters, the items that constitute the nature of social life, determining its manners and customs, laws and government, policy and faith.

In man's advance towards ideal perfection in connection with these things he has to gain three victories;

First, over Nature. To discover her secrets, learn her laws, enrich himself with her treasures, and avail himself of her resources, to achieve what without them would be gigantic impossibilities, and to reach through them what would else be unattainable enjoyments, is the first great battle of civilisation. It includes every discovery man has turned to practical use, from the spark that would kindle his fire to the electricity that would carry his thoughts, and every invention, from the rude arrow to the ocean steamship.