

great heart of humanity beats it comes with its glorious adaptations fitting into every fold of that heart. Its stories charm the child, its hopes inspire the aged. Philosophers have reverently gleaned from it—legislation has been thankfully indebted to it. The maiden is wedded under its sanction, the bed of death is soothed by its promises, the grave is closed amid its comforting assurances. Its lessons are not only the essence of religion and the seminal truths of theology, but also the first principles of morals, and the guiding axioms of political economy. It furnished the panoply of that ancient valour which shivered tyranny in days gone by, and has lost none of its power to-day. It has been, and is still the guiding star to the poet 'the philosopher and the philanthropist, as well as the Magna Charta of the world's liberties.

This is not mere theory. It has often been realized. It was but a small band that met on the day of Pentecost—but baptized with the Holy Ghost they were filled with that holiest of heroism which is based on the love of Christ. The sword of persecution was unsheathed and they were scattered abroad—but what then—they went every where preaching the word. The glad tidings were proclaimed in Samaria, they flew through Galilee and went far beyond the limits of Judea. The wisdom of Athens bowed to them, and the corruption of Corinth could not resist them. At Antioch the disciples speedily multiplied. The temple of Diana was forsaken at Ephesus, and the magical books were burned. Macedonia, famous of old for its phalanx, yielded to the might and majesty of its love. The iron valour of Rome was conquered by the invincible might of the crucified Nazarene. It surmounted the Alps and descended into Gaul. It scaled the Pyrenees and gathered many converts in Spain. It crossed the channel and founded its churches in the British Isles.

True, many of these churches have died out or been overshadowed with superstition; but why? simply because they placed human tradition in the room of the Word of God—because they ceased to love and cherish and maintain and proclaim the word of this Gospel. And what untold wars and tumults and rebellions and revolutions have been the result of a want of fidelity to the Word. Surely the God of the Bible is the God of history; and when we remember that during the present century every country in Europe, save the British Isles, has been once and again desolated by the march of fleeing or victorious armies, that every kingdom and empire has been more or less disturbed by revolutions, can we fail to trace the fact that peace and prosperity have so far been the portion of the Isles to the wide circulation of the Bible, and the blessed effects produced by that Word of the living God. What Austria, Italy, Spain and France need is a *free Bible*—and the cry for national freedom will be in vain so long as the Bible is bound. The Bible and its living principles of love alone can fit a nation for self-government, and strengthen them to stand up, not for false theories of freedom, but for a true and constitutional liberty.

The resolution in my hands alludes to the war between Germany and France, and its influence in opening up doors of entrance for the Word of God. We are apt to look on France as fairly prostrated, but the prayer of every Christian man is that France may rise from her present prostration great, glorious and free—and we can only expect this through the dissemination of the Word, and the living power of the Gospel. This alone secures character to the principles of liberty, by whatever political changes the frame of society may be shaken. We must seek to have the truth of God stamped in living characters on her millions of hearts—and then France will yet teem not only with intellect and energy and enterprise, but with the fruits of holiness, and re-act on our own French-Canadian fellow-subjects with right power. One of the speakers at the recent Bible Society meeting in Rome was Father Hyacinthe, who, while declaring himself still a Roman Catholic priest, gave utterance to such sentiments of loyalty to the Bible as the Word of God, and love to Christ, as must meet a ready response in every Christian heart. Oh for hundreds of priests in Europe and America who would take their places in