

of different climes, this Book with the good news must be sent as a proclamation to all mankind without respect of persons, because it is urgently needed by and perfectly adapted to every human being. No wider contrast can be easily imagined than that which obtains between the intellectually subtle Hindoo and the brutalized bushman of Caffraria, between the metaphysical German and the superstitious, sensuous Spaniard, between the stolid Russian and the vivacious, sceptical Frank, between the aristocracy of England and the savages of Central Africa; but this one Gospel, our text assures us, is quite as well suited to the one as to the other—is quite as much needed by both. “Every nation, and tongue, and people” constitute the parties to whom this message is addressed, and the day of Pentecost gave the Church of Christ the key to her great work. It is the “Angel’s” business to proclaim to every nation and people *in their own tongue* “the wonderful works of God”—“the everlasting Gospel.”

Would to God we were seized and filled and impelled by the omnipotent mastery of this conviction that the Gospel being everlasting must be of universal application!—that it is, without any modification or improvement whatever, adapted to the needs of all men, like the blessed common sunshine and common atmosphere, like pure water and wholesome bread. The beloved John in apocalyptic vision saw, in the angelic symbol of our text, that to preach this Gospel *universally* is the Church’s destiny. Let us accept our glorious destiny, brethren! Let us push forward with a vigor unprecedented in this grand Gospel enterprise. Let us arise to our work of translating and scattering, with an activity and liberality worthy of our high commission, this one precious volume, fully persuaded that everything dark and crooked, selfish and corrupt must shrink and vanish before it. As I have often seen the night mist hanging heavy on the flanks of a highland mountain quickly dissipated before a fresh breeze from old ocean, even so, before this voice of the Lord, sin must yield and vanish. As the structure made by boys with snow in the cold moonlight must melt under the beams of the midday sun, as the mimic churches and fortifications ingeniously constructed by children with sand on the seashore must fall before the rising tide, even so everything that is inherently weak, impure and wrong, must ultimately melt and sink before the advance of God’s everlasting truth. “The knowledge of the Lord shall cover the earth as the waters cover the sea.”

About giving our help to many modern religious undertakings, even to some of our favourite denominational schemes, you and I may have honest scruples, there is so much of the impurity and ambiguity and frailty of human organization about them; but in this holy crusade of the British and Foreign Bible Society we may fearlessly invest money, work and prayer. There are no hidden dangers here. This is the predestined work of the Church. As living members of the one, true, catholic Church of the living God we have this Book of Good news committed to us, and, having it, we hold in our hands the lever of Omnipotence with which we may slowly but surely move and raise the world; having this we really possess that mighty power (long dreamt of as belonging to the fabled “philosopher’s stone”) by which the baser metals of poor fallen humanity may, by touch, be transmuted into the pure, the beautiful, the precious, the everlasting of the true golden age; having this living Word of everlasting Truth, amid all the perplexities of the present, all the failures of the past and all the boding darkness of the future, blessed be God! we hold in our hands the clue which will certainly guide us and many others into a brighter and better future beyond, where, amid the imperishable verities of everlasting life, this everlasting Gospel shall be crowned with the splendours of an everlasting triumph.