

who display a marked ignorance of the highest and holiest scriptures of the religion which they so lightly and severely condemn. Ameer Ali claims, and the claims may well make us think, that there is more charity in Islamism than Christianity. An Islamist reveres both Jesus and Mahomet—their doctrine with regard to unbaptized or uninitiated children and outsiders from the faith is wider and more tolerant. Whatever truth there may be in the allegations, the question presents itself to us:—"Can we afford to ignore or be ignorant of a religion which makes such claims through such men and through such a channel—magazines, which are in the hands of everybody—as Max Müller says?" If governments send out officers to explore the fortresses and to examine the strategic peculiarities of the frontiers of their neighbors, would it not be well that missionaries also, who are to conquer the whole world, should act as spies, should make themselves acquainted with the sacred books of other religions, the very fortresses of those whom they wish if not to conquer, yet to convince and convert?

Ignorance under such conditions is highly culpable, especially as the possibility of knowledge has been brought by Max Müller and others within easy reach of all students. And the refusal to enquire and compare on the part of any Christian church or teacher will be regarded and rightly regarded by all impar-

tial and truth seeking men as an evidence not of faith, but of fear.

Men like Ameer Ali have an implicit faith in their creed, 'ust as we have in ours, and simply to say to such "We are right and you are wrong" will neither convince nor convert. There is a better way, St. Paul's way—frankly to acknowledge gladly to hail, the truth that is in another religion, to rejoice in it as one of the evidences that God has not left Himself without a witness, and to show that the truth that is there will be found only fuller and clearer in Christianity.

We need fear no enquiry the most critical, no comparison the most searching. If we have faith we need have no fear. If we believe Christianity to be the truth of God, we need fear, not, only no error, but other truth—whatever truth is found in any other system, must be also Christian, for Christ is the Light of the world—Christ is the truth of God—no truth can conflict, but must harmonize with Christianity.

We make certain claims for Christianity and in presence of any and all religions, I believe, we can make good these claims. And the more we acknowledge the truth in other creeds, and there is none of them without truth, the more we meet our fellow-men on common ground, the sooner will we get them to listen to and convince them of these claims. What do we claim? I will try to put it as briefly as possible. We