

Christ has been recorded as the sure guide of faith and duty, in that proportion has peace and hope and purity been gained ; in proportion as men have set themselves to work to cut and carve and carp at the truths this Bible contains, in that proportion have they found "no end in wandering mazes lost ;" yea, and have succeeded in making themselves and others miserable, reckless, vile, only that, and nothing more. These are foundations of faith this Bible gives them ; wherever they are shaken, so is human integrity, so is the world's peace. "Better an ass which carries you than a horse which throws you." And I, for one, would rather be among the children crying Hosannah to the King riding upon a lowly ass, than be seated in the triumphal car, with loud acclamation, which was drawn through the streets of Paris when God was formally denied, and reason in the person of a strumpet was exalted. We do not need [to] concuss the first car we find laden with nitro-glycerine to learn its destructive power. One experiment is sufficient ; so should one French Revolution be with its last echo, the Paris Commune. I hold it, therefore, as the plain teaching of experiment actually made, and therefore to be esteemed as scientifically true that the faith which inspires to nobleness, nerves to deeds of holy daring and self-denying love, which has produced such men as Paul and Luther, Knox and Hooper ; consecrated lives such as those of Howard, Carey, Duff and Livingstone, which, notwithstanding a court that could complacently endure George IV's reign raised a young maiden of eighteen summers to be and continue the crown of the purest, noblest Court that ever owned a Christian monarch's sway ; that gave to that Queen's earlier years a companion better than "great," seeing that he remains enshrined in the nation's heart as Albert the Good—that the Book which gives such a faith has done, is doing more for humanity than the know-nothingism which would supplant it, and which needs only to be carried to its legitimate results to bestialize the race and drape the earth in the funeral pall of anarchy and despair.

Another year of Bible Society work is over, another began ; are we preparing for the work ? There is yet work to be done. Modern society is not to be saved by electric light, aesthetics, culture, and a boundless north-west. Armstrong guns are not a nation's surest defences. Unwalled Jerusalem, in Zechariah's vision, was to be encircled by Jehovah as a wall of fire. Righteousness and truth are a nation's best towers, and we may rejoice that such is being acknowledged by our leaders now. I am giving no opinion as to the political wisdom or folly of the act, but I rejoice at the moral motive thereof, when, notwithstanding the natural longings, we Britons have, for the Gibraltar of the east, a government holding we have no moral right to Candahar, on that ground evacuates. I am proud of the nation which shows that if its soldiers can and do, at their country's call, press forward, as at Balaklava into the very gates of death, Britons can, at the same call, relinquish what they have won ; because the vanquished have the greater claim. A noble Bible triumph, when the empty but alluring cry of glory is silenced by the noble call of duty.

Our motion speaks of augmented work on the part of the Society, that is on the part of individuals. This is the time for conflict ; rest comes by and by ; we are soldiers of Christ, let us then press on

"More than conquerors even now  
With the war sweat on our brow ;  
Onward o'er the well marked road  
March we, as the host of God.

"Royal is the sword we wield,  
Royal is our battle field,  
Royal is our victory,  
Royal shall our triumph be."