

fidel, or at least a godless, channel. It was then on this side the Atlantic the night of French Atheism, which so many on both sides of the water mistook for the noon of reason. That a system which found so many devoted followers in Europe should obtain a temporary popularity, and aspire even to ascendancy, in the New World, was not very surprising. Some of the leading minds in that country made no secret of their infidelity.— This was a most perilous crisis for both America and Christianity, and the best friends of both were unable to contemplate the issue without misgiving and, indeed alarm. So young, and yet already lost! for lost America would have been, had the descendants of the Pilgrim Fathers become the disciples of Voltaire, and forsaking the God who had led their ancestors over the flood, bent the knee to the goddess whom France worshipped with human sacrifices. And not only would this deplorable result have been disastrous to America—it would have produced a grievous revolution in the affairs of Christianity. The friends of the gospel would not, indeed, have despaired of its final fortunes even though France and America had declared themselves on the side of atheism; but, undoubtedly, an alliance of this sort between two such powerful states would have placed Christianity in a disadvantageous position, and would have imposed upon her a long and painful struggle before she could recover her lost ground. But the world was spared this grievous calamity. The God to whom America had been devoted by the noble men who first took possession of it, remembered the country, and blessed its people for their fathers' sake. The christianity which had appeared to succumb for a while rallied again, and at this hour the master element in the United States of America is the Christian element.

This is of good augury for the future triumph of the gospel. America is making prodigious strides in every department of national greatness. She is rapidly growing in population, in commercial enterprise, in monetary power, in literary fame, in moral and political influence. This combination of potent influences, in good degree, is at the service of Christianity, presenting an array of subsidiary helps, such as the gospel has rarely or never before enjoyed, for extending itself over the earth. Christianity is already turning to account that powerful organization, and is using it for

her own purposes. She is enlisting more and more, every year, in her cause, the remarkable energy of the American people, the wealth so generally diffused throughout the country, and the commanding position which her government is assuming among the nations of the earth. Than the American Board of Missions we know not a more energetic religious society anywhere. Its revenues are daily increasing, and the sphere of its operations is enlarging every year. It sends its missionaries with the glad tidings to every clime, and men of all nations acknowledge themselves indebted to the land beyond the Atlantic.

In the old world, argues the infidel, christianity is upheld by tradition, or by the props of political power: take these defences and buttresses away, and it shall soon be seen what will become of it. It might be sufficient to meet this objection with the reply, Did christianity triumph by these helps in primitive times? Was it by these auxiliaries she gained her great battle at the Reformation, or that she survived the political and social storms which swept over Europe at the end of the last century? Had she not on these occasions to fight for life with popular superstition? Had she not to combat the forces of atheism, the power of kings, the craft of priests, and, worst of all, her own corruptions? But over and above this reply, we can point to America. There, without any political help, and called to struggle with an infidel element, christianity rose to influence, and is every year, to a larger extent, imbuing the public sentiment, and influencing the public action. The robust and energetic character of American christianity is one of the most cheering signs of our times. That the Saxon stock and language will spread over that great continent, seems at present a high probability; and equally probable is it that christianity will accompany this diffusion. In those western deserts where the forest's gloom now rests, or the Indian's war-whoop is heard, christian sanctuaries will arise at no distant day, and songs shall be heard, even "Salvation to the Holy One".

It is observable, also, as we have already hinted, that christianity as found at this day is in close and inseparable alliance with all the master agencies of the world. Why the other religions should keep company only with ignorance, and decadence, and barbarism, and why the christian system should go hand in hand