

Star," representative of our American Sunday-schools, has for many years been making its annual visits with ever-widening beneficial results. The Bible declares that man is made in the image of God, and as such is capable of redemption; and the wondrous transformation is going on before our eyes; this is the twofold and unanswerable vindication of the reasonableness of our endeavor.

3. Here the question may be raised, Is there any necessity for interference with other religions and civilizations, for an active and organized propagandism? Why not trust to the inherent forces of human nature, in the confident assurance that these will be sufficient, ultimately, to renew the face of the earth? The law of progress is elastic; why seek to reduce it to rigid uniformity in method and result? Why not leave China, India and Africa to work out their own regeneration in their own way, as we have done? Because *we have not done it*; because our Anglo-American civilization owes its origin, its energy, its conquering superiority, to elements that were brought into it by the missionaries of Christianity. Until they came, our ancestors were ignorant, superstitious, cruel. That human nature is under a constitutional law of ethical progress is the purest of assumptions, contradicted by all ethnic testimony. All history shows that until the time of Christ the moral degeneracy of the world was rapid, continuous and universal; and since then, the path has been an upward one only for those nations who have received the Gospel. Elsewhere the darkness still deepens, and no native prophets appear, clear of vision and strong of hand, to lift the millions from the grave of spiritual death. The Brahmo Somaj of India, under the leadership of Keshub Chunder Sen, has seemed to not a few prophetic of a near national self-regeneration. It repudiates alike Christianity and Hinduism, presenting as its creed a strange mixture of Oriental philosophy and Christian ideas. It reminds one of the ancient Gnosticism, in which both Christianity and the Greek philosophy were supposed to have found their higher interpretation and final reconciliation. The Indian gnosticism finds its chief value in the confession that the East needs a new religion. National pride succumbs with difficulty; it would save at least a few fragments from the ruins of the Indian temples, incorporating them with the new Christianity to which Asia is to give birth; but the stone has smitten the colossal image of Indian heathenism, and there can be no cessation in the mighty moral and spiritual revolution until the Christianity of the New Testament is dominant throughout the great peninsula. And what India needs, Japan and China and Africa must have. They will not regenerate themselves. The forces requisite to produce such a result are not lodged in human nature. They must come from above. They must be carried abroad by those who have been made partakers of the heavenly light and life. The Gospel of Christ, in our hands, is the flaming torch that is to dissipate the world's darkness, and the mighty ham-