

beautiful allusions,—fails to renovate? Because the reader understands that these thoughts are but the dreams, and speculations, and visions of a poet's mind—simply what he dreams, and they are of no more value to the reader than any ornamentation anywhere—they are of no real power to the reader—have no more power than sheet-lightning, that plays upon the heavens, has to destroy.

You must have in your ideals the element of authority; you must have them surcharged with inspiration, if they are to take hold of men and mould and change them; hence it is not the Bible from which has been eliminated the supernatural—it is not the Bible from which you have thrown out everything superhuman—it is not the Bible in which there is no divine Christ, and no atoning sacrifice, and no eternal justice, and no ever-loving father—that will save the world from sin. You may avowedly, professedly, believe the Bible; but you may have thrust out all of these distinctions, and if they are thrust out, your Bible is useless to the world; but when these elements are retained, the authoritativeness and moral tone of the Holy Scriptures lay hold upon a man and change him—in the nature of things they must renovate and elevate.

Nor is this a mere matter of speculation. It is a matter of fact, to which the history of the world bears witness. England owes her life to the Bible. England owes more to Wycliffe than to all her crusading armies put together. India owes more to the Bible, if Chunder Sen is to be believed, than all the arms that are borne there by the British troops. Chunder Sen testifies,—and he is supposed to be good authority—that it is not the force or fists of England that hold India, so much as it is the moral life brought into India through the preaching of the Word of God by the missionaries. (Applause.)

It is the cross of Christ that holds India so faithfully to the cross of St. George. And so in America—whatever we have that is worth having sprang from the Bible. Whatever we have of religious life or religious power has emanated from the Bible—it is a matter of fact, there is no question about it; so that such a writer as Castelar, in studying the life of the western nations in England and America, among the rest, tells us their moral life and so their great vigour, may be traced to an old Anglo-Saxon book called the Bible. And we know how it is also in local movements for the reformation of man. Have you ever known any local reform by which man was lifted up out of the gutter and saved, without the Bible? If you have, your experience is different from mine. You may read poems from now till doom's-day—you may deliver beautiful essays, and do all kinds of beautiful things for the elevation of man; but leave your Bible out, and men will remain just as they were before. You never knew of a revival of religion without the Bible, did you? And in proportion as the Bible has been studied, the deeper has been the religious life in any community, has it not? I am satisfied if I can once get my congregation to the Bible, and keep them there, conversions will be multiplied—the Bible will do what human voice and human influence cannot. Here are three or four facts from nature, the testimony of history to the Bible, our own observation and experience of the influence of the Bible, all affirming the great truth that the moral life of the world, and its religious life depend upon the circulation of the Scriptures—upon their being spread broadcast throughout the world. I hope that you will lay these things to heart, and will determine, God helping you, to help this Society to do more in the future for the dissemination of the light of divine truth than ever in the past,—realizing that the human race is very much like a class of ephemera spoken of. They came into existence one night, and were very much interested in the stars, and in the morning one of the brief-lived creatures hastened and announced to his brother a strange light. The sun was rising in the east, and they had never seen the sun, and so they began to