

Who first dared the cannibal regions—the cannibal shores of New Zealand and Tonga and Fiji, and converted wolves, whose appetite was for blood, into a nation? Missionaries. To come nearer home. Who are those in Europe who are now lifting up their voices against war, that horrible perversion of the intellect and of the soul of man? Who are devoting their means and influence against vice in the high places and vice in low places and against the infliction of wrong upon the defenseless? Who are those whose examples of righteousness and purity and gentleness conform with their own spirit the legislation of governments and the sentiments of society? The followers of the Nazarene. ‘The foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.’”

Similarly Mr. Howells declares in *Harper's*, that “Christ and the life of Christ is at this moment inspiring the literature of the world as never before, and raising it up a witness against waste and want and war.”

These are a few representative utterances showing the trend of intelligent and impartial testimony, on purely scientific and philosophical grounds, to Christ and the Christian religion, and especially to the value of missions for the elevation and education of the human family.

There is one department of witness that must be especially emphasized for its comprehensiveness and value. One of the grandest marshalings of testimonies to Christian missions may be found in the witness of unconverted, non-Christian, but candid observers. There are hundreds yet involved and entangled in the snares and superstitions of heathen systems, who either cannot or dare not forsake the old faith, who are yet conscious of the superior virtue and power of Christianity and its mission work. These testimonies, if compiled, would of themselves make a voluminous collection and a sufficient answer to all modern skepticism and malignant hypercriticism. “Our rock is not as their rock, even our enemies themselves being judges.” Demosthenes and Æschines once engaged in a famous disputation before the assembly of their countrymen. Upon it hung issues next in importance only to life itself. Demosthenes triumphed, and Æschines went into exile. While at Rhodes, Æschines founded his School of Eloquence, and on one occasion read to his pupils the masterpiece of his opponent. When his pupils burst into unrestrainable applause, Æschines said, “Ah! what would have been your admiration had you heard Demosthenes himself speak what I have read!”

Many have been the involuntary testimonies which men have been led or forced to give to Christian missions; and they weigh like the praise which Æschines could not withhold from the orator whose magnificent eloquence drove him into banishment. They are not the words of prepossessed advocates. Nay, they are often the expressions of those who have been prejudiced and even inimical, but who cannot in candor and fair-mindedness longer deny the facts. And, out of these testimonies alone, the vindication of missions could be sufficiently framed. Let us summon to the witness-stand a few of this class.