

ain. My countrymen, on the other hand, know nothing of either a god or a devil, believe in neither punishment nor reward after this life, and yet they live decently, treat each other kindly, and share with each other peaceably when they have food to share."

II.

Miss Kingsley, in her "Travels in West Africa," has given a very interesting account of the people with whom she associated during her several expeditions. She appears to have given an unbiassed opinion of the West Africans' commercial, social, and religious life, and in so doing has not hesitated to praise and reprimand according to her sense of justice. She tells us of the influence that Christianity has produced upon the moral life of the converted heathen, and her opinion of the missionary. She says: "I have no hesitation in saying, that in the whole of West Africa in one week, there is not a quarter of the amount of drunkenness you can see any Saturday night you choose in a couple of hours in the Vauxhall Road, and you will not find in a whole year's investigation on the Coast, 1-17th part of the evil, degradation, and premature decay you can see any afternoon you choose to take a walk in the more densely-populated parts of any of our own towns. I grieve to see thousands [of pounds] wasted that are bitterly needed by our own starving poor. I do not regard the money as wasted because it goes to the African, but because such an immense percentage of it does no good, but much harm to him." Miss Kingsley is here referring to the money spent by the missionary.

Again, speaking of converts, she says: "Those converts, which are the mainstay of missionary reports, and which afford such material for the scoffer thereat, have merely had the restraint of fear removed from their minds in the mission school without the greater restraint of love being put in its place. The mission-made man is the curse of the Coast, and you find him, in European clothes and without, all the way from Sierra Leone to Loanda."

In the face of Miss Kingsley's statement, I should regard money spent in West Africa by missionaries as being obtained under false pretences, and it is time the Government warned the public of the manner in which thousands of pounds are annually wasted, and not there alone, but also in other countries, China in particular. Miss Kingsley is to be congratulated for the fearless manner in which she has told the truth, and Rationalists will do well to keep her remarks before them.

A writer in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for January, 1898, speaks of the Veddahs of Ceylon as being a people showing love for their children, and the men treating their wives with consideration; yet they are regarded by some anthropologists as being the lowest types of humanity. And, while the savage gets very little credit for his humane principles, the Pagans are almost as little known for their praiseworthy actions. Indeed, I cannot recall one instance when a priest has referred to the morals of