

REPORT.

The cause of Missions is the cause of God. In every country, and among all tribes of men, it has proved itself to be the evangelizer of the world. Commerce, science, and philanthropy without the gospel are inadequate to the task of elevating the nations of the earth. Much that there is in these agencies calculated to leave an enduring impression on the characters of men, is derived from christian principle, and christian sympathy, and where these are wanting there is not, and there cannot be, the integrity, energy or mutual confidence which even the commercial transactions of nations require for their mutual advantage.

Hence we naturally expect that christian nations will achieve the greatest renown in all the arts and habits that secure wealth, establish commerce, and spread and consolidate the blessings of civilization. And this expectation is verified by the facts of history. It is the christian nations which control the world. Even the civilization of heathenism is a curse rather than a blessing. Freedom, just laws, the protection of life and property, sympathy with the suffering, the development of national industry, fidelity to treaties, and above all, the recognition of the dignity and rights of man, are scarcely known, except where christianity reigns. Everywhere else there is chaos. Despots rule and oppress the people. Man as man can claim little that is not conceded to the brute, and thus ages roll on, under the same withering blight, and the state of society receives but little amelioration from experience, education, or the progress of the world. God is not honored, man is not loved, responsibility to the judgment day is not felt, and the natural results are wickedness and misery.

But under the reign of gospel truth the scene is changed. Nations rise to activity, wealth and power. The people are educated and free. Laws are made for man, not for princes and governments. The general good necessarily becomes the governing principle of action, and the result is a more diffused happiness, a wider scope of action for genius and enterprise, and a deeper impression on the heart and life of the principles of truth and righteousness.

Convinced that this young country would be immensely benefitted by laying deep and broad principles of christianity as the basis of our social structure, the Missionary Society, whose financial transactions this Report embodies, commenced to labor in the cause of spreading christianity in this