

The measure of true human heroism is not the capacity for enjoyment, but the power of endurance. Hence our Redeemer as the perfect Man, as well as the all-sufficient Saviour, was made perfect through suffering. His manhood was developed by what he endured.

Nations, as well as individuals, reach greatness through suffering. The events of history that attract attention and absorb interest are tragical rather than comic. The grand land-marks of history are all set up on the field of trouble. The voice of the past speaks to us in sadness. History is an anthem set in the minor key. The glare and glitter of a Belshazzar's feast are now only remembered as the light in which we behold the calamities of his overthrow. The shouts of ancient festivity only reach our ears as the accompaniment to the dirge of sorrow. The banqueting halls of the ancients have nearly all disappeared, but their sepulchres are with us until this day. It is not smiling mirth, but weeping sorrow that has studded our earth with monuments for the dead. It is in grief rather than in joy that a man yearns most for immortality. It is the ploughshare of suffering that has left the widest and deepest furrows upon the surface of the nations of the earth. Nations have been born in the pains of anguish. The foundation stones of all national greatness have been hewn in sorrow, and laid in trouble. The gems in the crowns of earthly glory have been cut and polished not with the oil of joy, but with the diamond dust of suffering. It is to self-denying labour carefully performed, to cruel persecutions patiently borne, to crowns of martyrdom nobly won, to bloody battles bravely fought, that we look as the turning points of history, and the fountains of national greatness. All the birth-rights of freedom are the price of blood.

The suffering of sorrow supplies a common bond of sympathy for mankind. Trouble of some kind or other strikes the notes of suffering in every heart. Men can all sing the dirge of grief in unison. We may not have a common ground of thought, nor a common ground of joy, nor a common ground of action, but we have

all a common ground of sorrow. All mankind go to the grave and weep there. The grief of bereavement enters every heart and wrings tears from all eyes. Before the common feeling the separations of time and space and social rank are all obliterated. I might not be able to enjoy myself amid the festivities of an Egyptian feast, but the wailings of the oppressed Israelites at once awaken a responsive echo in my bosom. The shouts of the Roman amphitheatre may fail to gladden my heart, but the simple inscriptions on the graves of the catacombs at once awaken my sympathy. The expressions of grief are as fresh for human feeling to-day, as they were a thousand years ago. Men may have found out many new sources of pleasure. God has kept them to at least one common ground of sorrow. Men may not be able to harmonize their laughter, they can always mingle their tears together. It is in common misery that men must be made to realize their common kindred. When struck by leprosy the Jew and Samaritan can associate together. It is on the common ground of felt misery that Christianity brings all sinners together. Men's hearts are, so to speak, melted in the furnace of penitence that they may be fused together in the bonds of love. It is as fellow-sufferers drinking consolation from the same fountain of life that men are to recognize their common brotherhood aright. It is as sufferers in sin that God will restore us in salvation. Suffering provides a field for the exercise of charity. This grace could not be developed without sufferers, on whose account it would be exercised. The field has long been there, but it has been the peculiar privilege of Christian civilization to occupy and cultivate the field. Philanthropy is the outgrowth of Christianity. Benevolent institutions are the direct result of Christian influence on society. They are leaves from the tree of life applied for healing the sufferings of the nation. On all these institutions, such as hospitals, poor-houses, asylums, charity schools, Christian missions of all kinds, may be written the words of Jesus, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." In bearing the burdens