

this function she forfeits her charter and her right to be, and can make no demand of men, nor claim on the help of God. This does not overlook her obligation to edify her converts, but recognizes that edification can be perfected only in the work of evangelization.

2. *The world's need.* We hear of the light of truth among the heathen and the lofty characters found there, but those who are on the spot see little of it. "I have seen," said Mr. Owen, of Pekin, "a crowd of people worshipping at a foxhole, and all the religion of China, either of Buddha or Confucius, gives nothing to lighten a sinner's burden, no Saviour—only law, which has indeed served to keep alive a sense of guilt, but brings no relief." The "Light of Asia" is the lurid glow of the fires of conscience, not the sunlight with healing in its wings.

. . . "Africa, is Darkest Africa," said one of her sons, "but not because the sun does not shine, but by reason of superstition, slavery, infanticide, murder, internecine, wars and immorality.

. . . In Mohammedan lands woman has no religious duties, for Allah has no interest in her. For him she has no soul to save. Only where the gospel has come is that blot removed from our race—the degradation of woman."

So, though some partial truths have been perceived by heathen philosophers, it has been of little avail to light up their gloom. Their actual state as found by the missionary, fully justifies St. Paul's description of them in the first chapter of Romans. Everywhere they are "sold under sin." Their partial truths do not save them. Some, guided by an inherent craving for an infinite object of worship, became monotheists, but their God was above all relation to human affairs and gave them no help. Others perceived that the highest perfection can be exercised only where there are relations to others, and became polytheists, as India with her thirty-three million gods. In both conceptions of God there was a truth, which only Christianity comprehends perfectly, in a Triune God. Here only does truth shine in saving fulness and satisfy the whole need of the soul.

3. *The need of trained men for the mission field*—men who have disciplined body, mind and spirit, both in exercise and restraint. No one is so exposed to the temptations of fleshly