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Modern Missions and Culture.

MISSIONS can be shewn to have availed not only for the salvation of souls; this is the grand primary and essential object in view; but also to have aided immensely the march of modern civilization and culture. Among the watchwords of the time "culture" for the moment plays a leading part, and it is well to show that even from the point of view of "culture," Christian missions have laid the world under the greatest possible obligations. The words of Macaulay are as true as emphatic, "Whosoever does anything to depreciate Christianity is guilty of high treason against the civilization of mankind." The notable German Materialist, Hellwald, is constrained to confess that "Modern culture rests upon the view of the world derived from Christianity." It is demonstrated that culture without the truth of the Gospel is immoral and destructive. No community can be pointed to that has been raised from barbarism to civilization by the influence of commerce or by any agencies apart from religion. This is a truth that should be noted. No island large or small, no province, no city, no town, no clan, can be named that has been elevated from barbarism to civilization by any other than Christian forces.

How easily, on the other hand, one can quote instance after instance of peoples and tribes raised from barbarism to civilization by means of evangelical missions. Look at Duncan's work at Metlakatla, where nearly a thousand Indians live and work as becomes Christians. Look at the Basutos; at the people of Samoa; at the Fijians. We need not go farther afield than to the scenes where our own missionaries have laboured—Aneityum, Eromanga and Fate. The merchant follows the missionary and finds the field open for trade. When the order is reversed, the merchant may be eaten, but he never elevated the standard of morality in any heathen land. The mission to the Sandwich Islands cost one million and a quarter dollars in all; but now the commerce of one year much more than covers the whole of this cost. But still more valuable is the service they render in teaching the doctrine of divine love and the brotherhood of man, and thus shewing the sacredness of life. Captain Markham, of the war-ship Rosario, testified before the House of Commons that "In every place which has come under the influence of the missionaries, I have always found the natives peaceful, friendly, and inclined to fair trade. A. R. Wallace, the eminent naturalist, having visited the Celebes, says: "The missionaries have a right to be proud of this place. They have helped the Government in a remark-