

But however unreasonable such a procedure might appear to mere human reason, and however unlikely to meet with success, the event has justified the prediction; proving "the foolishness of God" to be wiser than men: and "the weakness of God" to be stronger than men.

At the feast of the Passover Jesus was lifted up on the cross amid the scoffs and jeers of the Jews who cried, "away with Him; away with Him. He saved *others*; *Himself* He cannot save." "Come down from the cross if Thou be the Son of God," and other such insults. And about seven weeks later, at the feast of Pentecost, no less than three thousand souls, among whom were many of these same Jews, accepted Him as the Messiah. Owned Him as their Lord and their God, and such was the attractive power of the crucified Nazarene, that, notwithstanding all the opposing power of the rulers of the Jews, we read that "the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great number of the priests were obedient to the faith." And not only in Jerusalem; but also in Samaria, and the surrounding districts was the power of the cross felt. Nay, more; such was its attraction that many of the subtle minded Greeks found in it a greater fascination than in any of their philosophies. And the haughty Romans by whose power Jesus was crucified, began to bow the knee before Him; and three centuries afterwards were actually marching to meet their enemies with the instrument of His torture erected in the air as the emblem of their faith and pledge of their victory. And still further: the influence of the cross was not confined to those nations which had attained to a certain degree of civilization: but such was its power that the more barbarous peoples, including Great Britain, were gradually brought within the circle of those who, like St. Paul, were prepared to count all things loss that they might win Christ and be found in Him.

Nor was the power of the cross to draw men from their national idolatries and life-long superstitions: from their lusts and passions to a life of purity and practical holiness, confined to those early times; and to what is called the old world. But it is still wielding a mighty influence for good wherever the gospel is preached. And to day, hundreds—nay *thousands*, are being brought into the fold of Christ, not by the power of the sword, not by the philosophy of the sage; but by the foolishness of preaching.

To-day is the simple story of the cross proving itself adapted to meet the cravings, and supply the soul-wants of men of