

kind. It voices a strain of melody which is perhaps the noblest earthly prelude to that song of triumph which the redeemed of all nations shall sing."

In a world-wide survey, Dr. Dennis points out how the leaves of this tree of life which are for the healing of the nations, bring a moral and social regeneration of whole tribes and nations. Like the waters of Marah, these were exceeding bitter till the healing branch was cast therein, and made them sweet forever. A new type of manhood was created. Even in darkest Africa and cannibal Polynesia and sin-sodden India, Christ-likeness has been created.

One of the most potent influences in this respect has been personal examples of missionaries and native converts—the object-lesson of a Christian family, that bit of Eden implanted in the heart of heathenism.

Among the special results noticed are the temperance reform. It is the shame of civilization that British, Dutch, and New England rum have taught the pagans of Africa a deeper degradation than they knew before. It is to the credit of Islam that it has made drunkenness an unknown vice throughout Moslem lands from Delhi to Morocco. It is all the more necessary to create a conscience against drink in this besotted people who have become its victims.

The greed of trade has forced the opium traffic on China, and greatly developed it in India. One of the greatest evils missions have to overcome is this deadly opiate which hounds both body and soul. Gambling is another vice which has been greatly encouraged by the lotteries fostered by the Church of Rome and all the Spanish dominions.

Social immorality, the appalling evil of paganism, has been intensified by the habits of vile white men. Here, again, missions are creating new ideals, and developing a new standard of morals.

The pessimism of the Hindus and the Buddhist often leads to suicide in its endeavour to reach Nirvana, but the immortal hopes of Christianity create a revolt against self-slaughter. Habits of industry and thrift are developed. The inveterate vices of lying and theft are yielding to a sense of truth and right.

The greatest results have followed in the purifying of family life. This is the most magnificent rôle of missions. The elevation of women, the ennobling of her character, ennoble also the man and the family. The wrong and wretchedness of polygamy give place to the fair ideals of

Christian marriage. Mrs. Bishop narrates that the impassioned prayer of the polygamist women of the East was for poisons with which to kill their rivals or themselves.

The greatest obstacle to the Gospel in Moslem lands is the anti-Christian custom of polygamy. In seeking the abolition of child marriage, the alleviation of the miseries and sorrows of child widows, and giving aid and protection to children, is exhibited one of the most benignant aspects of Christianity.

Dr. Dennis describes, too, the humanitarian and philanthropic results of Christian missions. The slave trade, that "open sore of Africa," is being healed, and slavery itself is being abolished. The suttee and other forms of human sacrifice have almost entirely disappeared. Cannibal orgies and human sacrifice have given place to Christian amenities. The high-caste women of China are being freed from the tortures of foot-binding, and we may hope in time that their sisters in Christendom will be emancipated from the scarce less deadly compression of more vital organs.

We talk of the need of prison reform. We have no conception of the atrocities perpetrated on criminals in pagan lands. Even here Christianity is mitigating brutal punishments and bringing light and liberty to the dark cells of China and Japan.

Under the inspiration and example of medical missions, an enlightened system of surgery and therapeutics has taken the place of the cruelties and abominations of pagan practice. By means of dispensaries, infirmaries, and hospitals, the missionaries are imitating the example of the Great Physician who healed at once the bodies and the souls of men. The leper asylums and colonies, and homes for orphan children, are saving multitudes from misery, and creating new conceptions of duty and destiny. Even the brutalities of war are mitigated, and a love of peace and righteousness is being developed. These statements are not glittering generalities, but are supported by Dr. Dennis by manifold specific examples.

The numerous and admirable half-tones of this volume enable us to be present, as it were, in the schools and colleges, the hospitals and sanitariums, the homes and haunts of the people. This work we consider the most important contribution to the literature of missions that has yet appeared.