

death ; suppose that such a report could be laid upon our tables fresh from the press, or suppose it should meet us as we read our morning papers ; suppose along with it were placed the statistics of wealth lavished by Christians on vanities and follies, set over against the amount doled out for purposes of Christian endeavor ; would not such an exhibition as this speedily cause us to hide our faces in the very dust, and instead of boasting of the work accomplished, cry out to God for mercy and help ?

“ We have no doubts or misgivings regarding the importance or the success of Christian efforts, nor would we for one moment discourage those ardent souls who, with their sickles in their hands, are entering this wide-spread harvest field. But facts are facts, and it is well for the Christian soldier to know that he is summoned to service more stern than sham fights and dress parades ; that the warfare of the Church is a mighty struggle with overwhelming odds against her ; and that only the Captain of salvation can give victory to His saints. It is useless to shut our eyes to sins and dangers which exist on every hand. It is easy to talk about converting the world, but do those who talk about it know much about converting men ? Do not some of them need converting themselves ? Let them enter into this work with all their souls, and it will not be strange if with others who have tried the experiment, they conclude that the world is a wrecked vessel, doomed to go down, and it is their business to launch the Gospel life-boat and rescue all they can.

“ But if the world is not converted, will not the Gospel then prove a failure ? That depends upon what is to be expected of it. If the life-boat was intended to keep the ship from sinking, then it proves a failure if it only saves