

the Chinese, under our own rule. There are over 200,000 Chinese in the Malay archipelago to-day, and they have developed all the resources of these islands. I passed the Philippines, where there are about 100,000 Chinese. I went through the Moluccas, and found Chinese there. I went to the north-western corner of Australia, and the first man I met was a Chinaman. I passed round the north side of Australia and down its eastern coast, and I came to no town where I did not find Chinese. In the colony of New South Wales I found between 20,000 and 30,000 of them. In the colony of Victoria I found 13,000, and in South Australia there are 4,000 or 5,000. I passed across to New Zealand, where there are 4,000 or 5,000. I passed by the Fiji and the Samoan groups, and I found the Chinese there. I came to the Sandwich Islands, and found 15,000 there; and I was informed of another fact—I was told that about forty-two years ago there was not a single Chinaman in the Sandwich Islands, and there were over 200,000 natives in that group. What is the case to-day? There are about 15,000 Chinese there, and only about 50,000 natives. I passed over to San Francisco, and in the State of California I found over 100,000. I found them in all the cities of America, and I have been told that they have come to London. I feel that a people like this, pressing themselves throughout the whole world, and carrying their energy and their industry with them, are bound to be a factor in the future history of the world; and on this account China is one of the grandest fields for the operations of this Society. My lord, I look at this in another point of view. I wish this Society to double what it has done in the past, because I cannot but think that a stream of population going away out of China into almost every part of the habitable globe, is carrying with it not only the native energy and industry of the Chinese people, but it is carrying something else—it is carrying with it the heathenism of the Chinese people. I remember the day when I thought heathenism was idolatry, that a heathen was a poor mean creature and an idolater, who bowed down to stocks and stones; but now I know that behind heathenism there lie filth and pollution and putridity all around the ethical circle. In spite of its education, in spite of its civilization, in spite of all the good qualities I have mentioned, there exists this foul heathenism. I come home to this country, and I am told that Buddhism is not such a bad thing after all. I am told that by those who do not know anything about it. I am told, also, that Confucianism is not such a bad thing after all, and I am told that, also, by those who know least about it. I find this—that distance in these matters ‘lends enchantment to the view.’ But if there is one lesson that has burned itself into my heart during the twenty-three years I have been in China, it is this lesson—that any moral precepts, that any ethical system apart from a Christian foundation, will never produce the results that you and I wish to see produced. I feel, my lord, if we had some of these men who theorize about these subjects, and who put a philosophy behind these systems, that no one would be so astonished to know that they possessed as the very people who profess them—if they went and saw China, and went down with us into that moral degradation into which this great people has fallen, I hope they would come back more charitable to us at least, than they have hitherto shown themselves to be, as we try to grapple, to fight, and to cure in God’s strength and grace those fearful evils that we find in heathen countries; if they did not get burned into their hearts what we have got burned into ours—the fact that nothing will ever lift that people but the wonder-working Spirit of God, applying to their hearts and consciences the glorious gospel of His grace. I believe that this lifting up is going to take place. And I believe that these people are worth the lifting. I say this fearlessly. Take them on any line, put them on equal lines with ourselves, and they are not inferior to us. I remember once an American captain asked me, ‘You have been many years in China, what do you think of the Chinese?’ I was a Scotchman, and I replied, ‘What do you think?’ He said, ‘I think that a man has to be up pretty early in the morning if he wishes to get to the weather side of a Chinaman.’ I believe the same thing,