

been leavened hitherto, still bow to Dagon, still deny God. And the Church, returning to her first love, awakened to a zeal like that which moved her in the first ages of her triumph, must yet, in these latter days, go forth to fresh conquests; and, in spite of the world's scorn, and the contempt of unbelieving multitudes, must proceed on a career of victory which shall change the kingdoms of the world into the kingdom of our Lord, and make them ready for the throne of Him who shall reign for ever and ever.

Sad indeed it is to think how vast a portion of the world is still idolatrous. In China three hundred millions of our race, in India two hundred millions, bow down to idols false and foul as Dagon! Nearly all Africa is still in thick darkness, such as can be felt! The Church of Christ has been at work upon the earth for eighteen hundred years, and yet the majority of men are still idolaters. Dagon without number still stand upon their pedestals. Philistines, more numerous by far than Christians, still look with scorn upon the Cross and Church of Christ. How sad it is to feel this! And yet the ark has only to go forth into the world that it may conquer all. Error, while it stands alone, is mighty; but error is weaker than a child when it stands before the simple dignity of truth. The Church needs but to go forth as Christ commanded, needs but to preach the everlasting gospel; needs but to go forth with the Word of God; needs but to speak to evil spirits in the name of Jesus; needs but to believe in herself and in the commission which her divine Lord has entrusted to her; needs but all this—and thus equipped, she can bring down the idols which still crush the nations, and she can leave them on the floors of their temples with hands and heads broken, and nothing but their stump remaining. Idolatry survives upon the earth, not by its inherent power, but by the faithless apathy of Christendom.

What, then, can *we* do to make the world better, and to obey the orders of our King? What can *we* do to spread the Church of our divine Master, and to make known His truth throughout the world. We can give our money, our prayers, our labours, and exertions; and, if God should call us to it, our own selves, to this most noble work. We can do our own part, whatever that part may be, and each man's part is different, in love, in hope, in faith, sure that Christ will triumph, sure that idolatry must fall before that Name, which is the first of names in earth and heaven.

Think that the heathen, many of them, feel their want and degradation; think that in their inmost hearts there are many who yearn for something better than their false gods; think that the Gospel and the Bible, and the Church of Christ, are the one and only answer to a need which they really feel, if all unconscious of it; think that the harvest is ripe, and that it stands rotting on the ground, only because the Church of God is too faithless, and the labourers are too few, to cut the grain down and bring it in; think that love to man and love to God speak to you with one voice, and pray you to communicate to others that life which is your own blessedness. Think this, and do each of you whatever each can to carry Christ's ark into every haunt of sin and error, till every Dagon falls, and every knee bows before the name of Jesus.