

it has given a great stimulus to the study of religions, has popularized it, has made the faiths of the great ethnic religions vivid to us. In the comparison Christianity cannot be injured. The pure gold will stand the test when placed side by side with the alloy. As Dr. Jas. Legge observes: "The more a man possesses of the Christian spirit and is governed by the Christian principle, the more anxious will he be to do justice to every other system of religion and to hold his own view without taint of fetter or bigotry." We need not tremble for the ark of God. We should cherish such absolute confidence in the divine origin and truth of the Christian religion, that we can study with fearless freedom and candour, all other religions. Our thoughts towards all other religions should be large enough and loving enough not to suspect that the virtues and verities we may discover in other religions will in any way disparage the supreme merit of the religion of Jesus Christ. The sun shines in the sky in midday splendour, and his glory is not detracted from if we rejoice in the milder light of the moon or praise the beauty of the twinkling stars.

Having said so much in favour of the study of comparative religion, I feel like entering a word of caution against a false liberalism that would surrender or compromise the truth committed to our trust, and the Saviour whom we hold to be the only Saviour of the world,—the liberalism that would set aside or modify fundamental truths in order to fraternise on equal terms with Buddhist, Shintoist, Parsee or Mohammedan. We cannot, out of courtesy, think or speak in veiled terms of the truth entrusted to us or of the Saviour in whom is our hope. We must hold these as supreme and press them as essential upon the acceptance of all men and all nations until the kingdoms of this world become our Lord's and Christ's. There are not a few in our Christian lands who are seemingly prepared to adopt the spurious tolerance of Frederic the Great of Prussia: "In my country every one can go to heaven after his own fashion." As a political maxim announcing religious freedom we have no quarrel with it; but as a confession of indifference in regard to religion the