

ach semblance of reason to this supposition. But it is a great mistake to imagine that there is any such antagonism. The one implies a duty to be done in the best manner possible, the other a duty on no account to be left undone. Both are necessary to the full realization of the calling and work of the Christian Church. And, as a matter of fact, he who is intelligently faithful in regard to the one of these, will be found equally faithful in regard to the other.

No age has seen so much done for Foreign Missions as the present. Wealth, position, learning and labor have been laid with unshrinking devotion upon the altar of consecration for this purpose. But in modern church-life nothing is more wonderful than the variety of effort put forth to reach the sunken masses of London and other large cities in the mother-country. It was high time that something extraordinary should be attempted. It was a burning shame that around the very centres of Christian light and influence thousands, and even tens of thousands, of human beings of both sexes, and of all ages, should be found as wretched, as utterly ignorant, as deeply depraved, and as dangerously vicious as the denizens of any region of China or of Africa. Yet so it was. And "the bitter cry" that was ceaselessly going up to the ears of the Most High at length fell upon the ears of the Christian people of England. There followed a great awakening. Means for amelioration, for rescue, for renovation, were at once devised and put in operation. Some of these were perhaps more vigorous than wise, were shortlived, and left those who were engaged in them perhaps more despondent than ever. It must take more than ordinary faith to continue a struggle against such terrible sin and suffering—against such a gigantic mass of evil, so deeply rooted in the social organism of which it forms a part—and nothing but Christian hope and courage can keep the worker from being overborne by what appears to be the inevitable. But Christian faith, and hope, and courage have sufficed for this purpose, and are daily gaining the victory. Of this, the first Annual Report of the London West Central Mission affords abundant proof. Though this is a small volume of less than a hundred pages, it is one of positively thrilling interest, and, in