

At the approach of its heavenly light barbarism will disappear, as it formerly disappeared from Europe before the first heralds of the gospel; for it will go to speak charity to those rich planters of America, who tyrannise over their slaves; it will recal to them the holy and liberal maxims of the gospel, the equality of the tomb, the account to be rendered to the sovereign Judge; and, perhaps, it will break the irons of some of these poor Africans; it least, if it cannot entirely accomplish its views, it will cause hope along with faith to descend into the hearts of these wretched men; it will extinguish there the desires of vengeance; and with one hand wiping away their tears, with the other it will point out the throne which awaits them, if they stand as Christians, in the heavenly abode of the Great Spirit. It will teach the widows of India, that there is in heaven, for pure souls, a spouse and joys ineffable; and in pouring upon their heads the salutary waters of baptism, it will extinguish the fire of the pile already prepared to devour them.

In America it will re-establish filial piety in all its rights; it will be the angel of life arresting the arm of the son raised against the father, and old men will teach their little children to bless and love it. In other places it will restore paternal feelings; it will re-establish in their hearts sentiments which one might have thought could never

have left them; it will give to women, as Christians, the august rank which the Creator has assigned to them in the human family; it will teach kings that they are the fathers of their people, and that they are preferred in order to protect and rule them, not to subject them to and crush them beneath a yoke of iron; it will teach subjects that they ought to respect, obey, and defend their rulers; it will teach both, that heaven is not appeased with blood; that the God, just and terrible, is also the good God, full of mercy, who regards with horror their abominable sacrifices. But neither will it forget the wants of the present life: it will teach savages the useful arts which embellish the abodes of man, and sweeten the fatigues of his laborious pilgrimage; it will open to him the furrow to receive seed: it will substitute bread for the horrible viands which can hardly appease the voracity of the children of barbarism; and it will make them agriculturists. By its influence the desert will cover itself with smiling harvests, and the arid plain with numerous flocks. Are not such in fact the benefits which have always followed Catholic Missions? Must we call to witness here the admirable transformation of Paraguay in the last century, where 20,000 savages were seen living in a state of peace, prosperity, and holiness, which cannot be thought of without admiration? Alas! they are no more seen, and