

as the Rig Veda. How about the "insult" to "our women"! As the *Madras Mail* again well says :

"We cannot say either that there is much propriety or good taste in this taunt coming from a *Hindu religionist* of any school. The *tu quoque* argument would suggest rather a crushing reply. Who have done most for the emancipation of Indian women from the disabilities under which they have labored for centuries—these Western religionists whom it pleases Vivekananda and his friends to taunt, or Brahmins and ascetics of different schools? Who has ended sutteeism and infanticide? Through whose influence are widow remarriages made possible in India? Where did the agitation against monstrous alliances between old debauchees of sixty and little Hindu girls of six originate? Who is it that lovingly give of their substance in order to send the sweet ameliorations of woman's woe into Indian homes?"

II. This Parliament of Religions was a mistake, in the *false impressions left on hundreds who attended it.*

Two classes of people were there : one composed of representatives of the various un-Christian and anti-Christian systems ; and the other, a miscellaneous audience mostly of nominal Christians. Upon both classes alike must have been made impressions lamentably erroneous and misleading.

What more mischievous result could there be than that which was in a measure inseparable from the very *fact* of the Parliament—an apparent levelling of all faiths to a common plane? Who can doubt that such an impression was produced who reads the reports and representations made by certain delegates, on their return to their own peoples? If American Christians would see themselves as they are reflected in the mirror of this Parliament, they would best read, for example, *The Pioneer*, published in India, wherein one Mervin-Marie Snell writes :

"America is starving for spiritual nourishment. In spite of the ignorance and provincialism of its upper classes, and the savagery of its lower, there are many souls everywhere throughout its great population who are thirsting for higher things—a thirst which Hinduism and Vivekananda are going to assuage."

In the *Chicago Herald* appeared the comments of a Buddhist priest who attended the Congress and construed it into a confession and concession of the failure of Christianity, and the desire of its followers for a more satisfactory faith. He says :

"There is no better place in the world to propagate the teachings of Buddhism than in America. Christianity is merely an adornment of society in America. It is deeply believed in by very few. The great majority of Christians drink and commit various gross sins, and live very dissolute lives, although it is a very common belief and serves as a social adornment. Its lack of power proves its weakness."

One of the Buddhists of Japan, reporting to a public meeting held in Yokohama on his return, said :

"During the meetings one very wealthy man from New York became a convert to Buddhism, and was initiated into its rites. He is a man of