

tianity is truly . . . the greatest and happiest stroke ever yet made for human perfection. Men do not err, they are on firm ground of experience, when they say that they have practically found Christianity to be something incomparably beneficent."

Then again, Mr. Lecky, the rationalist historian, recently elected to the British House of Commons as member for the University of Dublin, has these observations: "Christianity, the life of morality, the basis of civilization, has regenerated the world." "It (the Christian religion) softens the character, purifies and directs the imagination, blends insensibly with habitual modes of thought, and, without revolutionizing, gives a tone and bias to all forms of action." "As a matter of fact, Christianity has done more to quicken the affections of mankind, to create a pure and merciful idea, than any other influence that has ever acted upon the world." "The great characteristic of Christianity is that it has been the main source of the moral development of Europe, and that it has discharged this office, not so much by the inculcation of a system of ethics, however pure, as by the assimilating and attractive influence of a perfect ideal. The moral progress of mankind can never cease to be distinctively and intensely Christian as long as it consists of a gradual approximation