

"Shall we look at the far-off islands of the southern seas, where heathenism has been banished by the light of Gospel truth, and barbarism has given place to an enlightened civilization? We shall find that those races which lived in health and strength in spite of barbarism and cannibalism, are now slowly dying out from unreportable diseases and vices, unknown in their barbarous condition, but which have been brought to their shores by sailors from Christian lands, and which spreading like the gangrene of hell, are eating out the sources of the national life.

"Where shall we go to find the evidence of this glad era of universal peace and blessing which is proclaimed as so sure to come and so near at hand? It is easy on platforms and at anniversaries to speak of the spread of the Gospel and the diffusion of the Word of God, and in this we do rejoice and will rejoice with joy unspeakable; but while many are exhibiting to delighted assemblies these gracious tokens of divine favor and blessing, who keeps an account of the statistics of the work of the Prince of Darkness, the god of this world? A company of Christian people assemble and congratulate themselves upon the rescue of a dozen or a hundred men from ruin in some great city. Suppose on the other hand all the dealers in strong drink, and the panders to vice and crime should gather themselves together and count up the victims ensnared, the hearts broken, the homes desolated, the lives blighted and the souls ruined by their infernal craft; suppose their annual reports were issued in which they gave the number of drunkards made during the year, the number induced to take the first glass, the number of murders and suicides due to their terrible traffic, the souls enticed from paths of innocence and peace, and led in ways of darkness and of