

enough to last longer, yet will be disintegrated. Our Western civilization, borne on the wings of modern science, is shattering the ancient ways of life, breaking up the tribes, extinguishing the customs, the traditions, the beliefs, the morality, such as it was, of these peoples.

"Is not this the time when, having destroyed those old beliefs by which these races have lived, we of the Christian nations should give them that which will fill the void that we have been making? Our material civilization is rooting out the old ways of life, let us implant a new and better faith, and implant it at once, before the instinct which made these peoples feel that there was a Higher Power above them, an instinct discernible even in the lower races, has faded from their minds. Would it not be a calamity for them if their life came to be a purely material one, the sense of reverence and the wish to worship having wholly died out of their souls? And are not we, whose conquering march has destroyed the old customs and beliefs of the backward race, responsible for their future and bound to turn to account for their good the changes we have wrought?"

"Some rapacious men, of whom there have been too many in the new countries, men who are the foul scum on the advancing wave of civilization, undo and unteach by their lives what Christianity teaches by its precepts. It is hard to keep them out of the countries that are being explored or developed; but the presence of their untoward influence makes it doubly needful that there should be in all these lands a teaching of Christianity by other and better men whose lives bear witness to the truth.

"This is the moment when the Gospel should come to them both as a beneficent power, protecting them against oppression, and as a religion which, while it gives them a higher and purer morality and a higher conception of Divinity and of humanity, is also to lead them upward by friendly sympathy and try to bridge the chasm between them and their civilized rulers.

"Though you all wish to help missions, you cannot all be missionaries; nor is it only by missions in foreign lands that the world is to be evangelized. I have spoken of the harm done by members of Christian nations who disregard the teaching of their religion. But apart from those more flagrant cases, the greatest hindrance to the spread of the Gospel abroad is the imperfect power which it exerts at home.

"I don't mean merely that there is all around us in the lowest parts of our cities a mass of practical heathendom. I am thinking rather of the contrast between the standard of the Christian life the New Testament gives and which we all profess to accept, and the faint efforts we make to reach it. If you study the history of primitive Christianity, and no study is more profitable than that of church history, especially early church history, you will be struck by two of the causes which greatly helped the spread of the Gospel in the ancient world. One was the impression made by the lives of the early Christians, by their purity, their honesty, their unworldliness, their love to one another. The other—less important, but real with the more educated men—was the beauty and loftiness of the Old Testament writings and particularly of the Psalms and the Prophets.