

may almost be termed pre-historic—in China, for instance, there was a civilization in the far East, complete and systematic, which the great body of mankind at the present day little realize or comprehend, yet the evidences of that civilization are to be found. Amid the jungles of Cambodia and Siam are the ruins of temples of vast proportions and elaborate structure—with lofty corridors of magnificent columns, whose massive pedestals and sculptured capitals indicate not only a dense population—a bygone population—but a population advanced in refinement and architectural knowledge. But what history tells who those people were, or when they lived? The tiger roams through the sculptured halls; the civilization is effete; no mental power characterises the people of those lands. In the family of nations they hold the lowest place, and the strong hand of European power crumples them to its will as ambition or policy dictates.

There is not a man in this crowded Hall, who can call back the teaching of his school thirty years ago, who was not taught that the great interior of Africa was a barren waste—a sandy desert, where no life, no vegetation thrived. Yet what do we now learn? That it abounds with magnificent plains of great verdure; with noble rivers and lakes; with lofty mountains, whose summits, covered with perpetual snow, supply an unceasing irrigation; that its table lands are clothed with dense forests; that tropical fruits and cereals abound. Knowledge is power. The happiness of millions may yet depend upon that knowledge.

The civilization of the East, engrafted on the sterner characteristics of the European races, moved Westward over to America; but even there, in some parts, the existence of a prior civilization was found. In Mexico and Peru the organization of strong and powerful governments secured the happiness and well-being of thriving and populous nations, rivalling those of the East in numbers and advancement. Temples were there of solid build, and even three centuries of ruthless modern occupation have not