

to Papists, Mohammedans, Boodhists, and other heathen, without leaving our own shores.

What responsibility, then, attaches to the name and position of an American! When, in foreign lands, I have met kings and queens, dukes and marquises, counts and viscounts, they appeared to be men and women of only the ordinary stature; but when I first set my foot again upon our own shores, and met free-born Christian Americans, it seemed to me that I was looking upon giants, because God has given them the power of giants to bear up the pillars of freedom, of education, and of religion, and to cast down the pillars of ignorance, superstition, and despotism.

If your patience is not quite exhausted, allow me to add one or two further suggestions, growing out of a scientific view of the text.

In order that leaven should operate effectually, or even operate at all, it must itself be in an active condition, and of a proper temperature. In proportion as its thermometric state is too high or too low, or if there be an admixture of inert substances, or its own decomposition be slow or partial, will its catalytic power be diminished. It must be in such a condition that a living plant can flourish within it. For if there be no life in it, no vital power will be communicated to the surrounding mass.

So it is with the moral leaven of the gospel. If its purity be marred by an admixture of error and vain speculation, or if it be cast into the community distorted by ignorance, or disfigured and blackened by the fires of fanaticism, or enveloped in the ice of formalism, feeble will be its influence, if indeed it do not become a nuisance. Instead of proving the wisdom of God and the power of God unto salvation, men will see in it only the weakness of human wisdom and