

respecting His character and ways. There was a moral obligation on the part of the Athenians to listen to Paul, when he spoke to them of the unknown God. And it is an obligation which extends from the most refined to the rudest of Nature's children. All humanity lies within the circle of it. And though the light of Nature glimmers more feebly towards the outskirts of the species—yet even there, its dimness is visible to the last of men, and should reclaim them to seriousness. There is an incipient voice heard even in the extreme parts of the earth, and which goes to the very root and embryo of religion. It is a call upon man's attention—not perhaps to inform but to awaken him.—He obeys this call who places himself on the outlook for any traces or manifestations of a God. The missionary who lands upon his shore will find him the first to listen to his message—at least the first to be impressed by its aspect of honesty and sacredness.

16. The principle which we now labour to impress might be made to subserve the vindication of a missionary enterprise—but our most direct interest in it is founded on its home application to the most unlettered of our own peasantry. It is of mighty use that there should be initial ground upon which we can obtain firm entry for our ministrations among the ignorant—that as the church bell is the summons upon their attendance, there should be a moral summons upon the attention of the people. Now this is the important function of their Natural Theology—the theology of conscience which challenges supremacy within them, and gives the impression of a supreme Judge and Ruler over