

was here shorn of the lock of its strength, and had been moulded and trimmed to adapt it to systems of superstition, ignorance, intolerance, and despotism.

The whole history of the missionary enterprise, foreign and domestic, affords decisive proof of the leavening influence of the gospel. To mere worldly wisdom, the most striking feature of that enterprise is the total inadequacy between the means employed and the expected results. When a man, who has been accustomed to estimate the amount of outlay and preparation requisite in any successful undertaking in commerce, manufactures, or agriculture, or who knows the amount of effort necessary in a successful political campaign, — when such a man looks at the very slender instrumentality which the ablest missionary societies employ for the conversion of the world, it seems to him a want of wisdom amounting to infatuation to go forward. Why, men are more tenacious of their false systems of religion than of any thing else; and yet you send one, or two, or half a dozen plain, powerless men among twenty or fifty millions, and are disappointed if, in a few years, you do not hear of numerous conversions.

Alike inefficacious do such feeble instrumentalities appear to the heathen and the Mohammedans themselves! And this is one of the grounds on which missionaries are allowed to pursue their work unmolested in countries most hostile to their plans. Imagine, for instance, that the Emperor of China, or the Shah of Persia, or the Sultan of Turkey should learn that one, or two, or even half a dozen unarmed, inoffensive men had taken up their abode in Canton, or Ooroomiah, or Constantinople, with a view to preach the doctrines of Christianity, and to teach the principles of human science and literature to the young. Do you think that either of