

others, who, in view of the apparent feebleness of the instrumentality, exclaim, with Sanballat and Tobiah of old, *What do these feeble Christians? Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of the rubbish which are burned? Even that which they build, if a fox go up, he shall even break down their stone wall.* But the despised leaven silently operates; God's Spirit comes down to urge the movement forward, and the great mountain that seemed so strong crumbles down and becomes a plain. The gospel triumphs; decency and refinement of manners take the place of obscenity and vulgarity; temperance succeeds to drunkenness; peace to discord; thrift and enterprise to decay and poverty; and spiritual religion to errors of every name. Yet so quietly was the change effected through the gospel's catalytic power, that opposition and scepticism stand amazed.

From this principle of the self-propagating power of the gospel, thus established, we may derive inferences of great importance, and eminently adapted to encourage and strengthen those engaged in the missionary enterprise, whether domestic or foreign. Indeed, since the recent rapid expansion of our population across this broad continent, these terms, domestic and foreign, have become nearly synonymous.

*In the first place, this subject should inspire us with strong confidence in the power of divine truth.*

The current of worldliness often sets so strongly against the truth, and the means appointed for its diffusion seem so simple and inadequate, that we are apt to be disheartened, and to forget the mighty power which the doctrines of the gospel possess to work their way amid obstacles, and become mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds. But when we recollect what that truth has done in time past, how it has transformed whole nations as if by magic, how at this mo-