

final and complete triumph of pure religion, if its comparatively few genuine disciples do their duty? For every accession to their number increases their power; and why may not that leavening influence go on till it has reached the world's entire population?

In the gospel, then, you have an agency abundantly adequate to the work; and why then call in miraculous power? for we know that it is a settled principle of the divine government, not to work a miracle when established agencies are sufficient.

*Finally, this subject should greatly encourage and animate the hopes and efforts of those engaged in the work of missions.*

They learn from it that they need not be discouraged, though the common principles by which men judge of the probable success of their enterprises, should show their chance to be small. The fact that they are following a divine command, to *go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature*, may, indeed, be sufficient to give them courage and perseverance amid powerful difficulties. But it is important, also, to know what an extraordinary instrument they possess for carrying on the enterprise; how it works its way into the hearts of men, and silently changes their characters and the whole aspect of society, and sends down an influence, they cannot tell how far, into generations unborn. *It is, indeed, quick and powerful, sharper than a two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.* It takes a stronger hold of society than all other influences, and abides longer. Its secret energy rouses human society into action, and propagates the catalytic change from individual to individual, from family to family,