

from community to community, and sometimes from kingdom to kingdom. Nor can the missionary tell, when he deposits the leaven of the gospel in one spot, even though scarcely heeded there, but he has started a process which shall go radiating outwards over a whole continent ; for thus it has often done.

But though thus adapted to cheer the missionary in every land, this principle affords much more encouragement in some countries than in others ; and most of all, on American soil ; to the home missionary here. To prove and illustrate this from the analogies of my text, let us recur to certain facts respecting catalytic operations in nature, which I neglected at the commencement of this discourse.

The essential principle to which I mainly refer is this : that in order to make leaven or any other catalytic agent operate, it is necessary that the mass to be leavened should be in a certain state, as to consistency, temperature, and permeability. The baker well knows that it is of no use to hide leaven in a mass of frozen dough, nor unless its temperature is a good deal above the freezing point. So if from any other cause it has become condensed and rigid, the leaven cannot spread itself among the particles, and little or no effect will be produced, even though the leaven be in the best condition.

Apply now these principles to the dissemination of the gospel. Attempt to propagate its truths in a country where heathenism, or Mohammedanism, or corrupt Christianity, is firmly established, is sustained by the learned few, and the ignorant and superstitious many, and by wealth and influence ; is linked inseparably to the government, and can show a long list of illustrious defenders. By such causes the false system has been knit firmly together, and is settled down into a hard, impenetrable mass, which resists all change. Without a miracle you would expect that if the truth should make any head-