

forms, propped up by leagues and bayonets, present its yet unbroken front, to be breached only in the *battle of that great day of God Almighty*.

On the other hand, from these same principles, we infer that nowhere on earth is there such a preparation for the spread of pure Christianity as in our own land. Here we have no inert and indurated mass of dead formalism to break up; no frozen and petrified system of rites and ceremonies to arrest the leavening process; no iron arm of government to check the onward movement. But the genial light and warmth of free institutions and of general education have brought the community into a state most favorable for receiving the gospel and giving it free course. Wherever faithfully planted, it is sure to communicate and spread its vitalizing influence outward and onward; and if Christians will only do their duty, they may be sure that the whole land will be leavened.

And here I ought to mention another chemical principle that has a parallel in the condition of our country. Chemists tell us that elements in their *nascent* state — that is, when first produced — unite far more readily than they do afterwards. Now, the elements of our social condition are as yet, in a great measure, in a nascent state, and therefore more ready to be operated upon and form valuable combinations than in the old world, where every thing has long since become immovably fixed, either by affinities within or pressure without. O, how important that the gospel exert its catalytic power upon our population, before that same binding and paralyzing process pass upon them! The wide world does not furnish another field of missionary labor so promising. I mean not by this, that other countries are not open to the gospel, and that missionary efforts should be limited to our own land.