

God bless these efforts and increase them a hundred fold in every land. But I do mean, that our country preëminently invites and demands efforts for its evangelization. I do mean, that it is a more promising and a more important field than any other on the globe, and therefore calls for every heart and every hand to engage in it.

Do I seem to any to be taking too strong ground? Let me propose to them an experiment, which I sincerely wish all my hearers could try, to test this opinion. Let them take the next steamer across the Atlantic, and in one fortnight they would find themselves on ground very favorable for a comparison. They would be traversing lands where state religions exist, with all their pompous and imposing rites and ceremonies, with their exclusive and intolerant spirit, and their hostility to freedom of opinion, and to all that is vital in personal piety. Religion there is sustained by governmental decrees and by bayonets. Throttled in the embraces of the state, its lifeless form is made use of as a speaking trumpet, through which are proclaimed, not the doctrines of God, but of man; such as the divine right of kings, the duty of unreserved submission to the government and the church; the infallibility of the church, not of the Bible. The sweet countenance of gospel charity has been changed into that of a persecuting fiend; and the snaky locks of a Gorgon cover her head, freezing and petrifying all around. All places are full of religious forms, but alas! to find its power you must search long and deep. The very highways are studded with crosses and crucified Christs, with oratories and images of the virgin, while the towns abound with vast and venerable cathedrals and chapels, full of golden images, splendid paintings, and sacred relics; and the magnificent organ peals along the sounding arches and thrills the wondering soul, as the gilded priests chant