

did Providence do more for the civilization of Northern Europe in that one reign than centuries have accomplished in other lands.

Through many a dark century the Christian church had forgotten the injunction of her risen Saviour, to "go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." But the *eclaircissement of the truth by the reformation* in the fourteenth century prepared the way for the revival of the missionary spirit. It showed itself, indeed, at the first, in the Romish church; but it seemed rather a zeal for conversions to Papacy than to Christianity. Yet the example roused the Protestant world to engage in the work. And though it was too much for any one man to have the honor of being the prominent leader in such an enterprise, yet God prepared and brought forward at the right time a large number, who went forth, shoulder to shoulder, to this mighty conflict; and as they have fallen successively, others have always been found fitted by nature and by grace to catch their mantles and urge forward the world's conversion. The work is indeed most arduous and difficult; but Providence has found men eminently fitted for its successful prosecution.

As the precepts of the Bible became more and better understood, benevolent men were led to search out the various forms of human suffering, to lift up the dark curtain which self-interest, or arbitrary power, or bigotry and intolerance had covered over many a den of cruelty and wickedness, and show to the world how man had brutalized his fellow, and how he had,

"Clothed in a little brief authority,  
Played such fantastic tricks before high Heaven  
As made the angels weep."

With a martyr spirit, Howard went down into the infected