

leads me now to say, altho' many perhaps may be sadly disappointed, that many traces of paganism still remain in those who have united with the Church. Previously I had supposed many of my trials peculiar, and had attributed them to other causes until of late. I was surprised to find so many of my own trials with church members here, enumerated by the Missionaries of the American Board &c upon the Island of Ceylon as contained in their general letter which was published in the Missionary Herald for April of the present year (1844). The events which have transpired within a very few of the last years I have been here, particularly the two past, have led me to the conclusion that heathenism and paganism are essentially the same—There are to be sure modifications owing to different circumstances, but the blighting, hardening and contaminating effects of the former appear to me to be no greater than the latter.

These brethren upon the Island of Ceylon appear to expect that a great part of their trials with Church Members will be confined to this generation, and that the next will be a very different one, but I hesitate not to say that unquestionably for generations the taint of the heathen stock from whence they originated will appear for thus it is with this Church.

Even now in the third and fourth generation which has risen up since the first introduction of the gospel amongst these Indians, fickleness, want of integrity of character, want of principle, want of love of truth, aversion to mental effort, and an unconquerable one to restraint are amongst my severest trials. Often cases will occur which lead me almost to exclaim as did the Psalmist when in his haste he said, "all men are liars." Another trials is the impossibility of keeping unworthy members out of the church. The practice of admitting all that offer themselves as is the case with some around me (not presbyterians) is fraught with most disastrous consequences. I have made credible evidence of repentance and faith in Jesus Christ an indispensable requisite of admission to Church membership