

THE HERALD'S PULPIT.

Rev. J. H. Macdonald, Pastor of Brunswick Street Baptist Church, Fredericton,

VERY ABLY DISCUSSES THE QUESTION OF NATIONAL PROSPERITY.

Is. 60: 20—"Thy People shall be all righteous."

A more glorious picture of national prosperity never was painted than that which we find in the chapter from which our text is taken. The prophet dipped into the future as far as human eye could see with great boldness of outline and brilliant coloring described the future which he saw for his own nation. Where as thou hast been forsaken and hated so that no man went through thee, I will make thee an eternal excellency, a joy of many generations. Thou shalt also suck the milk of the nations. . . . For brass I will bring thee gold, and for iron I will bring thee silver, and for wood, brass, and for stones, iron, I will also make thee officers peace, and thine exactors righteousness. Violence will no more be heard in thy land, wasting nor destruction with thy borders. . . . Thy people also shall be all righteous."

But this ideal for Israel was never fulfilled. And perhaps no nation within the intervening period has come nearer the realization of this ideal than has our own country—Canada—in this year of grace, 1905. Let me with figures for paints, deepen the picture of the material prosperity of our country already in your mind. Canada is such a young country and withal so vast and we are so isolated from the other provinces that we do not fully appreciate the greatness of our national heritage. We are now but 38 years from confederation and 146 years from the conquest of Quebec. Canada contains one twelfth the land surface of the earth, is one third the size of the British Empire and is equivalent in area to 33 Italys, or 18 Germanys. June 30, 1904, the population was 5,601,328, 13 persons to the square mile as compared to England's 558 to the square mile. In that year 130,000 immigrants landed on our shores, coming at the rate of 2,500 per week. Primary education is provided for by more than 20,000 schools, where 1,228,532 scholars are trained. Seventy universities and colleges furnish secondary and technical education for the 15,000 students now enrolled.

During the last ten years the trade of our country has more than doubled, the volume of trade now reaching 464 millions, while the industries of the country aggregate 2,400,000,000. The farms produced last year 275 million bushels of grain and in agricultural and dairy products our exports have reached \$100,000,000. 24 millions of that amount being in cheese, in which Canada leads the world. The mines alone produced annually \$60,000,000 and sent out of the country 33½ millions. The product of lumber reached \$80,000,000, of which 33 millions was exported. Our waters yielded fish to the value of \$23,000,000 and in this industry 100,000 hands found employment. In the 11,900 factories of our country there is capital invested to the extent of \$500,000,000 and 300,000 hands employed. From Ontario to the Rockies lies a block of arable land 1,000 miles square (640,000,000 acres). Our western friends tell us that this area, allowing the yield of 15 bushels per acre, will produce enough grain to keep a train of 40 cars, containing 1,000 bushels each, moving out of Winnipeg every 15 minutes a night and day for 365 days, and then there will be another crop to move.

The people of other countries may have lands as fair, population greater, equal material possibilities, and a history more inspiring; but in addition to these we have individual security, social enjoyments, civil and religious liberty, and provides equal privileges to all people. It is this that makes our nation loved at home revered abroad. Taking the Dominion from ocean to ocean our people are prosperous and content. The barns and storehouses are full. The people were never so well clothed, so well housed or so happily fed. Truly the prophetic ideal of national prosperity was never more fully realized by any people than our own!

But it is well for us at this Thanksgiving season when we have been thinking much of our country's blessings to look beneath the surface and ascertain the secret of national prosperity.

WHAT IS NATIONAL PROSPERITY?

One view, and perhaps the commonest among rude peoples, was prowess in war. This was the view entertained by the Spartans who shaped all their national life so as to secure the greatest military efficiency. It must be admitted that the patriotism which this ideal incultured developed many virtues, and Leonidas and his three hundred men who sold their lives at the Pass of Thermopylae. But history shows this view to be defective. The nation that takes the sword and makes a business of war must perish by the sword. When in 146 B. C., Carthage was sacked by the armies of Imperial Rome, then at the height of her power, Scipio saw its coming destruction and quoted the words of Homer in which Hector predicted the fall of Troy:

"Yet come it will, that day decreed by fates; how my heart trembles while my tongue relates! the day when thou, Imperial Troy, must bend."

And see thy warriors fall, thy glories end."

Another view is that wealth makes the nation great. Six or seven hundred years ago Venice rose to greatness under that theory and afterwards Spain and Portugal, when they had the chance to tap the wealth of the golden Indies. There is unmistakably some truth in this view. The qualities of industry, economy and commercial integrity which make wealth are desirable indeed. But history proves this theory defective. The tainted streams of gold which flowed into Spain from her colonies proved disastrous. Indeed great wealth, however attained, has been found to sap the simple virtue by which it was attained. When industry gives way to luxury and wild speculation, then farewell to national greatness.

"Ill fares the land to hastening ills a prey, Where wealth accumulates and men decay."

The Athenians held another ideal, namely, that education was the SUMMUM BONUM. A prosperous nation must be educated. The historian Luke, says the Athenians spent their time in hearing or telling some new thing. But the later history of the Greek states proves their theory defective.

The Isles of Greece, the Isles of Greece,

Where burning Sappho loved and sung,

Where grew the arts of war and peace,

Where Delos rose and Iphoeus sprung!

Eternal summer glides thee yet,

But all, except thy sun, is set."

Still another view of national greatness is the establishment of a national religion. We all believe this ideal tended towards the truth; but the fact remains that all the dead and buried nations had their religions. The Jew believed that his religion was divinely taught. But in course of time it became entirely formal. To the Pharisees and Sadducees the most strenuous advocates of ritual, Jesus said: "Ye pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy and faith."

The religion which attains its form only and from which the power has departed is like the salt which has lost its savor and contributes nothing towards national prosperity. War, wealth, education, religious forms—these are the theories of men; and all those have been disproven by time, which tests all things.

RIGHTEOUSNESS AND PROSPERITY JOINED TOGETHER.

Beneath the picture of national prosperity which the prophet painted

DYING BY INCHES.

Bloodless Girls Saved by Dr. Williams' Pink Pills.

Dying by inches—that is the only way to describe hundreds of bloodless girls who are slipping slowly but surely from simple anaemia into a decline. They drag themselves along with one foot in the grave through those years of youth that should be the happiest in their lives. And the whole trouble lies in the blood. Bad blood is the fountain-head of all the trouble that afflicts woman from maturity to middle life. Bad blood causes all the backaches and sitches, all the paleness, breathlessness and despondency; all the heart palpitation, sickly dizzy turns and deathly fainting spells. From fainting spells to consumption is only a step. In nine cases out of ten consumption starts from bloodlessness—and the only sure cure for bloodlessness is Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. They actually make new, rich red blood, that brings the rosy glow of health to sallow cheeks, and strength to every part of the body. This has been proved in thousands of cases. Miss Frances Peach, Welland, Ont., says:—"A couple of years ago my condition of health was very serious. Doctors said that I had no blood—that it had turned to water. I was unfit to do anything for months, and was little more than a living skeleton. I had no appetite; the least exertion would leave me breathless, and I had frequent severe headaches. I was treated by several doctors, but they failed to help me, and I was completely discouraged. Then I was urged to take Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and in a few weeks found my health improving. I used eight boxes in all, and was by that time again well and strong. I gained twenty-two pounds in weight, and never felt better in my life."

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was the simple device: "Thy people shall be all righteous." In the eternal decree prosperity and righteousness are indissolubly linked together. This is the lesson which the Jewish nation, whose history is interpreted by inspired men teaches us.

The land in which they lived was not larger than a few counties of our own province; the population scarcely exceeded that of our Dominion. They had no colonies, no allies and no foreign trade. One or two ports held all their ships. They were inferior to many of the nations of their time in the arts of civilization. Yet they lived on enjoying a large measure of prosperity while other nations one after another fell into decay. Just so far as they were righteous they prospered and were able to beat back the mightiest foes that assailed them. So long as righteousness was the guide of their loins they were invincible. But when the nation forgot God and fell into immorality it became as feeble as a broken reed; and when finally Jerusalem was captured the national life under it was found clearly due to the history of other nations printed as that of Israel is written we would have the same lesson. The rise or fall of nations is invariably determined by moral causes. In the race for prosperity the nation invariably wins which is distinguished by simple virtues—honesty, industry, sobriety and religious fervor. With this foundation other things are bound to follow. If ever the national duty shall be war, a righteous people will fight heroically; in time of peace you may expect them to display those qualities which increase wealth. A righteous people will appreciate education. From the day the boy Jesus tarried with the doctors in Jerusalem righteousness and education have gone hand in hand. Above all a righteous people will be a religious people in the truest sense of the term for "The Kingdom of God is within you."

It is written on the page of human history that nothing can save a nation from decay where its morals are corrupt or its religious faith dead or dying. In vain were the splendid civilizations of Egypt, Assyria, Babylonia; in vain the wealth of Venice and of Spain! When a nation sets at naught the laws of God neither wealth nor military prowess nor mental culture can save it from destruction and decay. Well did Lord Beaconsfield declare: "Our ports may be full of shipping, our factories may smoke on every plain, our forges flame in every city, yet if righteousness does not prevail in the land we will form no exception to the rule, which the pages of history records, that our glory shall fade like Tyrian dyes and crumble like Venetian palaces." Righteousness only exalteth the nation.

APPRECIATE THE POWER OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.

The story is told of a brilliant itinerant preacher who moved the multitudes by the power of his persuasive eloquence wherever he went. He was accompanied by a poor blind brother who had no gifts at all, but to live a godly life and to pray. "The man of genius spoke. One day the preacher, after having moved the crowds in an unusual way, had a vision. He beheld the open heaven and the glory of the great throne, but he saw to his surprise that the light thereof shone not upon his head but upon the face of the godly man at his feet and from his feet it was reflected to the multitude. Then he knew that the power was not in his eloquence but rather in the pure life and fervent prayer of the man at his side. The application is manifold. It applies to the church and to the nation. The power and greatness of our land comes not so much through its great statesmen, though we have them, as from the lesser known lives of good men and from countless homes where God is feared and whose righteousness is cherished. Plutarch returning from foreign climes observed that he had found cities without walls and without kings, but "there never shall be a city without a temple, church or chapel." It has been said that Wyndham, the great statesman of the empire, did more for the commerce of England than Watt by the invention of the machinery of commerce. Lord Shaftesbury once said that "Charles Hadden Spurgeon, without discussing the problems of government, had done more for the social progress of England than any statesman of his age."

"The kingdom of God cometh with observation." The instruments employed do their work without the sound of trumpets. The godly home, the courteous soldier, the plain laborer, the man of the Bible on the table, some good men and women drawing the children together in the Sunday school and teaching them the sweet story of Jesus; some home missionaries driving from station to station of his parish, and calling the people about him to hear the word of God; a host of godly men amid the stress of business life seeking to conduct their affairs according to the principles of the golden rule. These are the unseen forces which make for national prosperity.

ETERNAL VIGILANCE THE PRICE OF SAFETY.

Though we have no long history, we have a noble ancestry. Many of our forefathers came to this country for conscience sake, and from the Covenanters and Loyalists. Others came with deep moral convictions and, like the Pilgrim Fathers, they "left unstained what here they found freedom to worship God." Such people are to be weighed and not numbered. They laid the foundation stones of our provinces and laid them securely. They believed in the old Book, and by the side of the church they planted its school. They believed in the sanctity of the Sabbath day. They bred a race of public men with a genius for good and honest government. Better than the heritage of character which they have left us. Sometimes when we read the records of public wrong and private



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sin eating towards the heart of the

body politic we may be inclined to be pessimistic as to the future of our country. But when we pause to reflect on the great body of our people—ninety-five percent of whom are British and Canadian born—their homes perched on every hill and nestled in every valley and recognize that our country is built on the rock of those principles which our fathers have transmitted to us, we feel assured as to the future. Yet as we love our country there are some things we must steadfastly guard. Suffer me to mention a few of them.

(1) We must guard our business integrity. The shocking disclosures now being made of the dishonest methods by which some of the great financial institutions of the United States are being conducted and the equally shocking revelations recently made with regard to the methods employed in stock speculation, are among other things that an ethical code which will not stand the light of day has fast been gaining ground in the commercial world. We must see to it that the standard of the strictest integrity is not lowered.

(2) We must guard our institutions. Of these one, perhaps worthy of the most special mention, is that of the Sabbath day for no nation has ever prospered which has disregarded it. When Israel went into the promised land her people were commanded to let their land rest every seven years. For 490 years they disobeyed that command. They were carried into captivity where they remained for 70 years and then the land had an enforced Sabbath rest. It has become the custom to criticize the Puritan Sabbath or the way in which it was observed. But there is one thing that the strict observance of the Sabbath did for the people of those days—it forced them to face the great problems which lie at the foundation of things. If one day of rest is secularized what other institution can possibly convey those great and fundamental thoughts to the hearts of our people? Those who take the Sabbath and use it for a day of amusement and for light sensational reading must soon forget that our God is a righteous God and that man's chief purpose is to glorify him.

(3) We must guard our public offices. It is easy to exaggerate the difference between political parties and religious creeds. But what are those differences compared with the

gulf that separates men of stainless integrity from men of low ideals who are sordid and sensual? Give me the man of clean life though I may differ with him in my views or my creed rather than the man with whose views I may be in accord but whose life I cannot think of without shame. It is the glory of our constitution that it is open to all classes and creeds; let it also be to its glory that none but men who have kept themselves unspotted in public and private life shall be called upon to fill them. This country should want no men in public office but those whose character can be looked upon with pride and satisfaction.

A time like this requires strong minds, great hearts, true faith and ready hands.

Men whom the lust of office does not kill;

Men whom the spoils of office cannot buy;

Men who possess opinions and will;

Men who have honor; men who will not lie;

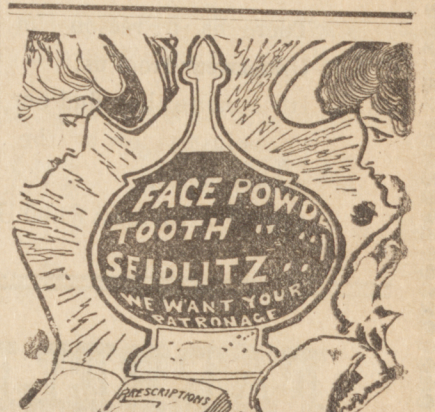
Men who can stand before a demagogue

And scorn his treacherous flatteries

Without winking—

Tall men, sun-crowned, who live above the fog

In public duty and in private thinking.



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