

It was thus that the early Methodist preachers—almost the only ministers of religion in the country—sprung from and sympathizing with the common people, traversed every county and new settled township of the land, holding forth the Bible as the only infallible rule of faith and practice—the Magna Charta of a people's rights and liberties—teaching from day to day, and from house to house, those first truths of faith, of morality, of order and of freedom, and thus permeating the entire population,

claimed with great emphasis and fervour, *La France doit avoir une religion*, 'France must have a religion.' Liberty cannot exist without morality, nor morality without the religion of the Bible. It is a nation's love of law, its love of wise and benevolent institutions, its attachment to the public weal, its peaceful and benevolent spirit, its love of virtue, and these alone, can make it free. Take these away, and there must be tyrants in their place. I hold no axiom more true or more important than this, that man must be governed by truth or by despotic power. As soon as a nation becomes corrupt, her liberties degenerate into faction; and then nothing short of the strong arm of despotism will restrain the passions of men, and control their selfishness, their love of gold, their thirst for domination, and their brutal licentiousness. The Bible alone is the source of that high-toned moral principle which is necessary to all classes, in all their intercourse, for the exercise of their rights and the enjoyment of all their privileges. Without it rulers become tyrants, and the people are fitted only for servitude, or anarchy. Without it there is no such thing as an intelligent, lofty, honourable, and disinterested character. Nothing else is capable of combining a nation into one great brotherhood—annihilating its divisions—quenching its hate—destroying its spirit of party—bringing all parts with all their jarring interests into one great whole. Nothing will rightly control its suffrages; send up salutary influence into its Senate Chamber; diffuse its power through all ranks of office; direct learning and laws; act on commerce and the arts, and spread that hallowed influence through every department of society that shall render its liberties perpetual. Statesmen may be slow to learn from the Bible; but they will nowhere find their interests so watchfully protected and their liberties defended with such ability and so many counsels of wisdom. The designs of the ambitious and intriguing, the artifices of demagogues, the usurpations of power, the corrupting influences of high places, and the punishment of political delusion, all find the prototype and antidote in the principles, prophecies, biography and history of the Bible. * * * We shall be a free people, only as we remain a Christian people. If a low and degraded infidelity should ever succeed in its already begun enterprise of sending up from the whole face of this land her poisonous exhalations, and the youth of our country become regardless of the God of their fathers; men in other lands, who have been watching for our downfall, will in a few short years enrol us on the catalogue of enslaved nations."—*Ib.*, 120-123.