

Asia, Ceylon, Bengal, Bombay, Madras, North West Provinces, Hong Kong, Labuan; in Africa, Cape of Good Hope, Gambia, Gold Coast, Natal, St. Helena, Sierra Leone, Mauritius; in North America, The Dominion of Canada, extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific, Bermuda, Newfoundland, Cape Breton, and Prince Edward Island; in South America, British Guiana and Falkland Islands; in the West Indies, Antigua, Bahamas, Barbadoes, Dominica, Grenada, Honduras, Jamaica, Montserrat, Nevis, St. Kitts, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Tobago, Fortola, and Trinidad; in Australasia, Australia, south and west, New South Wales, Queensland, New Zealand, Tasmania and Victoria; with a population as already intimated, at home and abroad, of about 250,000,000. Truly the little one has become a thousand, and the small one a strong nation, and we can hear the voice of God, as in days of old, saying: "*I have raised thee up to be a great nation, that thou mightest show forth my power and glory.*" It is a wondrous empire, broad, populous and mighty. One acre out of every six of dry land belongs to Britain, and one out of five of all living men. It spreads under every sky, and embraces every clime. Freedom, wealth and enterprise are the characteristics of its people. Besides the English tongue, which is now more extensively spoken than any other, French, Dutch, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Danish, Greek, Chinese, Arabic, Sanscrit and a vast number of other Asiatic tongues are spoken by different sections and countries of the Empire. England's greatness is a Protestant greatness. It began with a daring attempt of the Man of Sin to crush it. Its wonderful and continued growth has been under the fostering influence of the justice and humanity of Protestant principles. "The dawn of our national life was the rising of the Bible upon the land," and while she has been true to His word God has continued to bless her. If the time should unfortunately come again when our public men will pander to the beast and the false prophet, we shall surely be partakers of the blight and curse which have fallen upon all the Popish nations around us. So long as we remain true to our trust, and maintain with firmness the truth committed to our keeping, we are safe. No weapon that is formed against us shall prosper, but if the time should unfortunately come when ministers of the holy word turn to priestcraft and superstition, or we as a people give ourselves up to racing and boating and betting, our glory will have departed, and wasting and desolation will come upon us. Let us never forget that the great instrument that prepared the nation for this great trial was the vernacular Scriptures, and the same instrument carefully preserved and inculcated will still nerve to deeds of heroism, and the faith it imparts will still strengthen us to all holy Christian work, fearless of man, trusting only in God.

2. The old contest still continues. You think I have spoken only of issues long since past, that is a mistake. The two hostile parties are still face to face. There are two powers that rule Christendom, the Bible and the Pope of Rome. Each is contending for supremacy, for where one rules the other cannot, and this contest will never cease till one or other proves victorious. Hold fast, therefore, to the truth, and by renewed efforts and increasing sacrifices send forth the Word of God. Every additional language translated, and every additional Bible circulated and read, is so much gain to the cause that is destined finally to triumph.

3. The old weapons are the best. While we firmly adhere to the Bible and Protestantism let us as much as possible avoid all feuds and mere partyism, which raise bad passions for no good purpose, but increase darkness and prejudice against the word of God.

Let it be ours to pursue our work in love and kindness to all mankind, but from the path of duty never swerve, and God will protect, bless and prosper as in time past.