

to see realized. And it is worthy of observation that, in the enumeration of the elements which enter into the sum of a people's happiness, the children are made to occupy the foremost place. For next to the desired deliverance of the nation from the influence of *strange children*, there comes a prayer that "our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth; that our daughters may be as corner-stones, polished after the similitude of a palace."

The longer we live, and the more we see of the world and understand what transpires among men, the more do we see how unchangeably wise is the Bible in its references to the means and conditions of human welfare—both domestic and national. We are an advancing people in the direction of secular knowledge and material conquests over nature; but this old Book is ever in advance of all our thoughts and exertions in relation to those matters which enter into the highest development of society. The past century has witnessed marvellous improvements on the knowledge and resources enjoyed by our forefathers—so much so that, in our lighter and brighter moods, we are wont to indulge in a smile at the modicum of convenience and comfort with which they seemed to be contented. Yet the more we grapple with the moral and spiritual difficulties which, in the midst, and in spite of our modern civilization, confront our spirits and mar our material prosperity, the more do we fall back on the Bible as being the chief authority and safest guide on the momentous matters which lie at the foundation of all permanent, public good. Just as sailors now-a-days, with all their superior knowledge and appliances, cannot afford to dispense with the light of the old sun, the guidance of the old stars, and the ceaseless mobility of the ocean; so, in the passage of mankind over the rough and dangerous sea of Time towards the unknown shores of Eternity, we derive from the teachings of the Bible the most important contribution to our safety and success. The Bible, then, would have us pay prime attention to our children. It gives them the first place in the catalogue of elements that form the totality of the public welfare. Every prudent man who has a spark of ambition in his soul, will desire to see entering into the prosperity of a nation, a widely-extended and honourably-conducted com-