

will of the mob, until bribery and corruption render the body politic fit only for burial, and upon the lintel of the chamber of England's greatness is inscribed, "Ichabod." The hearts of all of us have been sickened and saddened by the charges which have been brought, some of which have been proved, while others are yet to be investigated, against some of the statesmen and office holders of both of the political parties in this Canada of ours, and shame has covered our faces that such a condition of things should exist amongst us; but how are we ever to shake ourselves free from such a reproach, how are noble patriotism, unselfish service of the people, disinterested statecraft, integrity of character and purity of conduct, to become the distinguishing features of our public men, unless our prayers in this behalf are frequent, fervent, and such as shall prevail to procure for us from God this inestimable blessing, of wise, and strong, and upright, makers of our laws and counsellors of our Sovereign. Before I pass from the general subject of our public worship I will advert for a moment to the function of preaching. Every sober-minded Christian must deeply regret the sensationalism which has of late invaded the pulpit, so that the congregations in some places are in danger of attaining the character of the Athenians, of which it is said that "they spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or hear some new thing." Nor is this all, but the wild excitement of a gospel which consists wholly in appeals to the emotions, resulting in their being rendered insensitive and dead from abnormal stimulation, until the poor soul fancies that because it is now become incapable of being wrought up to a high pitch of feeling, it is spiritually dead and outcast from God's grace, is offset by the discussion, which ought to be confined to the study of some deeper subject, the argument upon which the congregation as a whole is quite unable to appreciate, from lack of previous reading and knowledge, and which cannot be much more than stated in the short time which custom allows the preacher; or by the respectable essay upon some topic in which the interest of the hearers is of the slightest interest, and which is entirely forgotten before the church door is reached. Not only is this not the preaching by which the ancient heathen world was converted to Christ, and therefore by which sinners are to be convicted of sin and brought to repentance, pardon and reconciliation to God through the precious blood of his dear Son; but it is not the preaching by which believers are to be built up in their most holy faith, and the Church to be taught the manifold wisdom of God. I press upon the clergy the need they have of putting into practice the exhortation addressed to them at their ordination—"As much as lieth in you, you will apply yourselves wholly to this one thing, and draw all your cares and studies this way; and that you will continually pray to God the Father, by the Mediation of our only Saviour, Jesus Christ, for the heavenly assistance of the Holy Ghost, that, by daily reading and weighing of the Scriptures, ye may wax ripen and stronger in your Ministry." And again, "seeing that you cannot by any other means compass the doing of so weighty a work, pertaining to the salvation of man, but with doctrine and exhortation taken out of the Holy Scriptures, and with a life agreeable to the same; consider how studious ye ought to be in reading and learning the Scriptures, and in framing the manners of yourselves, and of them that specially pertain unto you, according to the rule of the same Scriptures." Preaching that is to be powerful for good must deal with those sub-