

of the Church, I am amazed at the doubts and fears of those who peculiarly profess to be the servants of God by public identification with His Church. For myself, whatever be my perplexities upon formulas of faith, I can never doubt that so long as Englishmen and Americans preserve their Christian civilization, God will protect them, for they will be His chosen people.

A thousand years ago, Alfred the Great gave us what Lord Brougham said was the sum total of free government and liberty—trial by jury. A thousand years ago, King Alfred planted an Anglo-Saxon Tree of Liberty, beneath the wide-spreading branches of which millions of diverse races of men have found peace and shelter. This was no tree of liberty, to be planted with frantic fanaticism to day, and cut down with stupid execrations tomorrow. Our forefathers watched it with tender and constant solicitude, and we who enjoy its noble shade, revere it as among the most glorious heritages of the ages. There are no signs of decay about it, and it cannot fall for centuries yet, unless the axe of some ruthless foe should attempt to level it with the dust. But that is what will never happen, for were there any such danger, as firmly as I believe in the grand future of America, do I also believe that, in the hour of danger, there would be heard the commanding voice of Brother Jonathan :

“ Woodman, spare that tree,  
Touch not a single bough,  
In youth it sheltered me,  
And I'll protect it now.”

But, more than this, I would remember that

“ This England never did, nor never shall  
Lie at the proud foot of a conqueror.”

And if a supreme crisis were to come, the brave hearts of Old England would rally to her defence and

“ Come the three corners of the world in arms  
And we shall shock them. Nought shall make us rue  
If England to herself do rest but true.”

Let not the world think that because England is a Christian country, anxious above everything to promote peace and fraternity among the peoples, that she is weak because she is Christian. The God of Battles still reigns, and the banners of His people shall ever be victorious. As General Garibaldi lately said, let a foreign invader approach the shores of England, and he would find forty millions of people in arms, with a volunteer service as well drilled and equipped as any standing army of any despot and nerved to victory with the sublime feeling of:—