

tism must ever harmonize with justice and philanthropy; and it will be found that public policy is of this noble character, just in so far as the public mind is Christian, and the interior circles of national thought and life are permeated by a sound religious influence.

Desirous to give this lecture a practical tone, we proceed to state three or four reasons, why there is a special call for the exercise of a Christian patriotism in Canada at the present time:—

1st. As will occur to every one, the country, in its social, political, and educational aspects, is yet young and unformed. Its character and institutions are only taking their shape. The difficult problem is now seeking solution, among us, how a country comprising very different races, languages, and religions, may be consolidated in one body politic, and moulded under a common legislation. This is the very time when a wise Christian patriotism may be influential in allaying those vexatious jealousies which are the bane of our public weal, and in giving direction to the course, and history, and character of a future nation—a nation which may be affected for ever by the intellectual, moral and religious foundations, laid, under our own eyes, by the hands and hearts of the present generation.

2nd. The public morality is low. Indeed strictness of morality in public affairs is laughed at, as something almost out of date. We regard this as an humbling and alarming fact, that a disbelief in the virtue and truth of public men has become very prevalent; and observing persons who will not go to the extreme of denouncing all politicians and public officers as unprincipled rogues, anxiously deplore, as one of the worst signs of the times, the lack of independence, and straightforwardness, and veracity in public men. Many are ready to apply to our own times those lines of Cowper.—

“The age of virtuous politics is past,
And we are deep in that of cold pretence.
Patriots are grown too shrewd to be sincere,
And we too wise to trust them.”

The public men of Great Britain do indeed, at the present day, maintain a high character, and contrast very favorably with the venal and deceitful politicians of the time of the Restoration and Revolution, whom Mr. Macaulay has so powerfully portrayed. It is one of the chief blessings of Britain, and has been greatly fostered by the moral tone of the Court over which our gracious Queen presides, that integrity and honor are always expected and are commonly found in those who occupy places of great power and trust. The present high functionaries of France, if the English Press has spoken the truth, have pursued a course which in England would involve indelible disgrace, availing themselves of prior access to government intelligence, in order to speculate in the funds and so amass colossal fortunes. It is strange and sad, that venality should have become the national vice of high-spirited France. In the United States, the standard of public principle and conduct cannot be lofty or pure, if one may draw any inference from the fierce mutual criminations of the political parties, and the allegations so currently made of the mercenary character of many members of Congress. But what we have to consider is the state, in these respects, of the land we live in,—and we see with pain that there is little faith in public virtue. Some content themselves with the lamentation, “O tempora, O mores!” and in disgust or indolence cease attention to public affairs. Others abuse office-seekers and office-holders roundly, as though the evil lay in them. But we fear the evil is deeper and wider than they suppose. The public mind is not high toned. The people are themselves blameworthy for the lack of principle complained of in legislators and rulers. If there be a succession of selfish and (to use a phrase more expressive than elegant,) chiselling politicians, it is lawful to draw the humiliating inference that they only too truly represent the majority of the population with whom they have found favor, by whose will they have been exalted, and at whose expense, dressed in a little brief authority, they play fantastic tricks.

Here then the demand for patriotic exertion is urgent in order to produce a higher moral tone and culture of the public mind, the result of which would soon appear in the higher and more unimpeachable character of our public men.

3rd. The worship of prosperity is detrimental to public, as well as private virtue, and threatens to corrupt and destroy modern society. It is true that wealth does