

And when fancy pictures to you her stately form as she bends with swelling sails and foaming prow to the southern breeze, your delight is as great as when the merchant hails a richly laden and long looked-for bark. May the felt pleasure of doing good increase with your years, and may you through life experience, that wisdom's ways are ways of pleasantness, and that all her paths are peace.

I have spoken to you, my friends, of our responsibility as individuals, but we are also responsible as a nation. That God treats nations as if burdened with a personal responsibility is evident from the whole of history. When he opens the vials of his wrath, are they not poured on nations as well as individuals—thus clearly showing, that as a nation we may contract guilt which may bring down upon us national calamities? What is the inspired history of ancient nations but a continued illustration of this principle? Why does the Dead Sea, charged with the elements of destruction, now cover the cities of the plain? Why does the fisherman now spread his net on the bare rocks of Tyre? Why does the dragon now dwell in the pleasant palaces of Babylon? Why does the screech of the owl now echo through the halls of Edom's capital? Is it not that they may be monuments of God's wrath—visible proofs of the great principle, that he judges the nations of the earth in their national capacity? Above all is this principle written in the history of Israel. God's vials of concentrated wrath have been poured upon them, and why? Just on account of their superior privileges. And hence the doom of Israel speaks to us of this further principle, that a nation is responsible just in proportion to its privileges. The heaviest woes that have ever fallen upon the nations of the earth have been theirs. The men who cried, "Crucify him, crucify him," "His blood be upon us and our children," have actually left us their children to be a living monument of their righteous doom. Those other nations that have drawn down upon themselves God's wrath, have melted away into the mass of mankind, and have left only the ruins of their proud cities to rise up against them and condemn them. But Israel has erected a living monument to witness against it. The men who thronged the streets of Jerusalem, and hurried the holy one of Israel to the accursed tree, have transmitted to us their living type. In feature and in heart, the very crucifiers of the Lord Jesus are in the midst of us,

bending under the weight of the heavy doom laid upon them by a righteous God. Instinct with a national vitality that baffles death, the Jew wanders from one generation to another on the face of the earth, only to be a proverb, and a curse, and an astonishment, and a hissing, and a reproach, wherever he may go. The doom of Israel speaks a fearful warning to every Christian nation, but it comes home to ourselves with special emphasis. We now occupy the high place in regard to revelation that Israel did in ancient times. Nay, our position in some respects is more prominent. To us, as a nation, are specially committed the oracles of the living God—the safe-keeping of the ark of the Covenant. But in addition to this, we have advantages which Israel never had—and woe to our much favoured land if we fail in the high duty committed to our charge! We stand forth from among the nations as the envy and the admiration of the world. In arts and in arms, in commerce and agriculture, in literature and science, we have no rival. And what are these points of superiority, but talents given us as a nation for which we must yet render a due account. They are gifts lent us for the service of God—for the extension of the Redeemer's kingdom. The commerce of the East, which in ancient times raised Palmyra, and Edom, and Tyre, and Egypt, to such a pitch of opulence, is now ours. But this is only one item of our commercial greatness. No wind can blow but wafts to our shores ships laden with the produce of other lands. Our empire has so extended that the sun never sets upon it. When its last rays linger on this hemisphere, it is dawning on our dominions in another. But our responsibility just extends with the extension of our dominions. The solemn command is laid upon us, to unfurl the banner of the cross wherever the flag of our nation floats. Wherever our engines of war carry terror, devastation and conquest, there are we bound to carry on a spiritual warfare with the weapons of peace. Wherever our enterprising countrymen reclaim the waste and the wild, the forest and the mountain, there are we bound to plant trees of righteousness, that the wilderness and the solitary place may be glad, and the desert rejoice and blossom as the rose. Wherever our merchant ships bear away the produce of distant lands, there are we bound to carry on a holier traffic. We boast of the hundred millions that acknowledge our sway, but we should rather tremble at the