

The same events, which occasion gratitude for benefits received and inspire the hope of future advantage, are suggestive of increased fidelity in the service of God. If it be evident that the Lord is for us, it ought also to be evident that we are for Him. Hath He permitted evil to come nigh our dwellings; and shall we not ask Him to teach us what is our need of the trial and what is His design in sending it? Hath he vouchsafed unto us a happy deliverance; and shall we not eagerly inquire, "what wouldst thou have us to do"? Taking His lively oracles for our counsellors and imploring His Spirit to be our constant teacher, let us humble ourselves under His correcting hand; let us be watchful against every form of that abominable thing which He hates; let us "live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world"? "Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people."

Dear brethren, the present is an opportune moment for reminding you of the comparative insignificance of all mere temporal status, earthly rank, civil freedom and national connection. In themselves, and as means of glorifying God and benefiting your fellowmen, these things possess, indeed, an unspeakable worth. But their excellence pales and their importance dwarfs before the concerns of an approaching eternity and the interests of God's spiritual kingdom. The Christian is the true nobleman. "He is the freeman whom the truth makes free." Our loyalty is properly set and exercised only when it has the King of Kings for its supreme object. None but they who through faith in Christ and by the spirit of adoption can call God, Father, have a connection with that kingdom which endureth forever. "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness," and having made sure of a personal connection therewith, have faith in its future history and final consummation. The kingdoms of this world and all the glory of them shall pass away. The names and deeds of many nations are only matter of history now. The firmest thrones have fallen and the mightiest empires have been dissolved. The most boasted forms of human government may not be able to resist the strain and pressure of adverse circumstances. But the kingdom of God's grace shall never end, and they who belong to it "shall shine as stars for ever and ever." Your Christianity will not impair, but purify and elevate your patriotism. As citizens you will be all the more useful for being members of the household of faith, and as soldiers all the more brave from following the Captain of Salvation. Now, while it is the accepted time, be instant in making your calling and election sure, and, while you have the opportunity and the means, in bringing forth "the peaceable fruits of righteousness." In the supporting and extending of the Church, in the aiding of its missionary schemes and philanthropic institutions, in the Christianization of the land, you have a sphere for unsparing liberality, activity and enterprise, and in the enjoyment of the glorious reward insured to all God's faithful workmen, you have a prospect that may well animate you to lifelong patience and diligence; "for God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love."

"Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace; above all taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."

Finally, brethren, "the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ." "The Lord of peace Himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord be with you all."

In the name and by the appointment of Synod.

Kingston, 30th June, 1866.

W. SNODGRASS, *Moderator.*

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