

“YOUR FATHERS, WHERE ARE THEY?”

This question has come echoing down the ages. It is a burning question in every heart with sympathies properly adjusted (true to the poles of God and to those filial impulses which lead men to honor father and mother. This question has from the dawn of human story been asked by the barbarian of the forest, the heathen philosopher of the Golden Age, the pious Jew, and the highly cultured souls of Christendom. In the text the question refers, in a particular sense, to the fathers of Israel, in a general sense it is applicable to any period or class. To us it comes this morning with appropriate fitness, as we look back upon the life, work and influence of the fathers, the founders of this far-famed and historic parish.

The national source from which any community springs largely determines the effect its descendants will have on the world's thought and activity. The advent of the Normans was the inception of Britain's dominant position as a world power. The inspirational force that has given greatness to the United States centered in English Puritanism, Scottish persistence, Irish fervor, and Huguenot devotion. Canada, the empire's fairest daughter, is winning the world's admiration through loyalty to those national principles which have made the motherland the center of highest modern civilization. This parish has attained international fame, largely by having had its original source in the land of Bruce and Wallace, Knox and Chalmers, Burns and Scott, Carlyle and Gladstone, Stevenson and Kelvin. These men and their compatriots have made the Scottish mind largely dominant in literature, and science, theology and philosophy.

From a nation of such men came the forebears of