

now this additional claim on our regard, that they are closely united with us by national treaties. We may be patriotic without fostering sectional prejudices and antipathies; we may love and praise our own country, without seeking to detract from the merits or greatness of any other.

There was a time when faithfulness to God was identified with attachment to country, and the Israelite who did not remember the land of promise with special affection, and even "prefer it above his chief joy," was justly looked upon, not only as a traitor to Jewish interests, but to the cause of God in the earth. And the feeling is a holy one still; it has its place amongst the things that are "lovely and of good report"; nay, that man seems to us to labour under a fatal defect of character who is destitute of it. Certain we are that he who has no country to which he can look as his own, and fondly say, "this is my own, my native land," is a stranger to at least one source of pure and hallowed enjoyment, and shuts out from his heart one sentiment that might prove a powerful incentive to good and worthy deeds.

There are many reasons, brethren, why we should cherish an affectionate remembrance of Scotland. I might refer, for example, to the *country* itself. It is true, it may seem rugged when compared with some other lands; its climate less kindly, and its fields less fertile; but it possesses this indescribable charm, that it is *our own*. The fields and "braes" where we sported in youth, listening to the song of the lark in the sky, or the "mavis" or blackbird in the grove; the clear murmuring streams by which we wandered; and the distant mountains on which we gazed, watching the shadows of the clouds as they seemed to chase one another over their brow; and a thousand scenes of a similar kind, are all clothed in our fancy in colors with which no other scenery can compare, and awaken emotions that no other can produce. There is no sunshine like that of our youth; no summer days now seem half so sweet, nor pleasures half so gay. It is true that all this is to be ascribed to the power of early associations, but it is not the less a