

the British sceptre in the remotest corners of the earth. How shall we account for her proud supremacy; for the amazing development of her power and resources, and for the progressive liberty that has blest her since the days of the Tudors? I remember a speech made by the late Lord Macaulay, to the electors of Edinburgh, soon after the revolutions of 1848; it was a marvellous burst of eloquence, in which that great master of language described the troubles of surrounding states, and the contrasted peace and security of Great Britain. "Why," said he, "it has been like the plagues of the Egyptians, hail, and fire mingled with the hail and darkness that might be felt; and we in England have been living as in the land of Goshen, where all the children of Israel had light in their dwellings." After many other words of powerful rhetoric, such as I can only imperfectly recall, the eloquent speaker asked the question, "And now, to what do we owe it all?" I confess I looked for a very different answer from that which he chose to assign: "We owe it all," said he, "to our unrivalled constitution." As if the British constitution had any life in itself; as if it were not wholly dependent on something more fundamental. Surely he forgot that a free constitution must depend for its power on the enlightened consciences of those who enjoy it; he forgot that the religion of England is her grand distinction. She has "had light in her dwellings," because the Holy Scriptures are read in them; because the pure Word of God is preached, and the Sacraments duly administered in her churches; and, because her children, to a very great extent, are taught of the Lord: therefore, "great has been the peace of her children." It has not been so, alas! to the same extent, on the Continent of Europe.

But, surely, all these gifts and distinctions have not been given to the British people, except that they might be diffused, by her great power, throughout the world. And surely we, in the United States, who have inherited similar blessings, may be permitted to claim our share in the same duties, and more especially so, because we speak the same language—a language in which it seems the design of Providence that His great Name shall be worshipped in all parts of the earth. Come, then, let us make up one army of the living God, and press on together to new conquests, under the banner of the Prince of Peace.

Let us beware of under-estimating the providence of God, by a superficial view of our progress as nations, and by neglecting to trace the hand of God in all that contributes to our growth and welfare. None but the true Christian can understand the philosophy of history: "the secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him."

The soil on which we now stand was originally the possession of another people; of that brilliant nation worthy to be your rival in ages past, which is equally worthy to be, now, your brave ally. The French King had pre-occupied the land, and had marked North America for his own. The adventurous Jesuit had explored the continent, and a chain of French forts stretched from the mouth of the St. Lawrence to the deltas of the Mississippi. But there is One who says to empires as to ocean, thus far, but no further. It is an encouraging fact that Divine Providence interferred in behalf of unborn generations, and by the almost visible finger of God, indicated that this Northern Continent is destined for the home of a purer religion, and more liberal institutions, than could ever have been given it under the influence of Jesuits and the ruling ideas of the French.