

who have not reflected seriously upon the subject, it may seem extravagant to assert, that, at the battle of Quebec the doom of Popery was sealed; but it was even so. It was there that the fate of Canada was determined, and French influence extinguished on the American continent. It was there that a vast impulse was given to the onward movement for liberty and independence in New England; and the dominion of Popery in North America rendered impossible. And though it still predominates in Lower Canada, and makes its power felt in the United States; it is only the prevalence of the French language acting as a barrier to the free circulation of British literature and thought, and the strong feeling of nationality, and a natural aversion, on the part of a high spirited people, to receive a religion at the hand of their conquerors, that has preserved it in the former; while in the latter, it is the social debris of Ireland and Germany carried down upon them, that has impeded the stream of liberal thought and independent action; but it will soon be swept away, by the advancing tide of intelligence, and a revived and invigorated piety. Do not let us murmur at the long suffering of God, or fret because the wheels of his providence move less quickly than we could wish; for just as certainly as Protestantism presents, and defends the pure truths of Christianity, as drawn directly from the Bible, will it prevail over the world, and bless men with its hallowed and enlightening influences. It has the God of omnipotence and truth on its side, and the gates of hell will never be able to prevail against it.

It is little more than a century since Quebec fell into the hands of the British. On the 13th of September, 1759, the decisive battle was fought, on the plains of Abraham; and four days afterwards the city capitulated. The armies engaged on

that occasion were comparatively small; and the place is much less famous than it deserves to be; for it is truly what it has been termed by a great American historian,—"the Battle-field of empire;" and interests were decided there, big with the seeds of great events, and springs put in action which have ever since impelled the cause of political freedom, of social progress, and, above all, of pure and undefiled religion, and will not cease to operate till superstition and spiritual despotism are banished from the continent.

The conquest of Canada by the British was a great event in Providence,—a thing arranged and brought about by Him, whose kingdom ruleth over all—for arresting the progress, and ultimately extinguishing the influence of Popery in America, and thus hastening its downfall throughout the world. With the Protestant population of this country, therefore, God has a great object in view. They are the instruments appointed to mould the character of a great people, to establish and develop free institutions, and to build up, on a secure foundation, the liberties of a vast empire. Let them never forget that they are placed here by God for this purpose. And let the consideration, that they are God's chosen, fill their hearts with love and gratitude to Him, who has thus highly favored them. Let the thought of this prevent them from ever forgetting God, or making light of their great destiny. Let a sense of their high vocation serve as an additional inducement to them, to be on their guard against all sin, and animate them to greater effort, in seeking to adorn their characters with every Christian grace, and every moral virtue, so that they may commend not only by the vigor of their character, but by the holiness and blamelessness of their lives, the religion they profess, to their compatriots of a different creed, and a different origin. The duty which