

her size but by her industry allied to intellect. Intelligence is a great factor in all labour. There is a wide difference between the value of a well-trained and an ill-trained workman. You can discern as you pass by the difference between the skilled and the unskilled farmer. The German saying is one that should be engraven on the door of every workshop, *jeder Arbeiter ist auch ein kopfarbeiter*. Who can tell what riches there may be for a nation in the brain of one Edison?

Further, to be a good citizen a man must possess character—character in which the great elements of truth, justice and courage are combined. High moral character in the people greatly enhances the value of a nation's material resources. Hence it is easy to see that preachers and teachers whose work it is to build up character may be the greatest producers in the land.

The heart of the question is reached by the well-put question, "What would a house and lot be worth in Sodom?" The character of her citizens is the only guarantee of the stability of a State. It is character alone that gives worth to life, national or individual. Let me quote the sonorous sentences of Edmund Burke:

"Men are qualified for civil liberty in exact proportion to their disposition to put moral chains upon their appetites; in proportion as their love to justice is above their rapacity; in proportion as their soundness and sobriety of understanding is above their vanity and presumption; in proportion as they are more disposed to listen to the counsel of the wise and good in preference to the flattery of knaves. The picture of the good citizen is before us. The kind of national life desired is before us. We want a nation composed of citizens who shall be intelligent, free, well-trained, patriotic and virtuous.

But how can this be attained?

"By what drugs, what charms, what conjuration and what mighty magic" is such a nation to be made a reality not a vision? Shall we look to the politicians for this higher life? Will they cast forth the unclean spirits? Will Satan cast out Satan?

The spirit of our politics is pre-eminently the spirit of party. The spirit of party is everywhere and in all things a lying spirit. Our party politics is a school of untruthfulness. It cannot fail to be anything else. Where will you find the party man who can speak the truth concerning his neighbour's position? Where will you find a party newspaper that will give an honest report of a political meeting? Is the following a caricature?

Editor of Party Organ: "Coarse and abusive remarks." "That's a good phrase. By the way, Mr. Blower is on the other side isn't he?"

City Editor: "Oh, no, he's one of our speakers."

Editor: "So? Let me see. I think you had better change that to 'Keen and incisive.'"

Party politics is a school of uncharitableness as well as of untruthfulness. This is manifest in the constant imputation of the worst motives, the misconstruction of purposes and the constant onslaught on the characters of political opponents. It is, moreover, not out of the way to say that party politics is a school of disloyalty, for party is on many a vital occasion substituted for country. The party man is not a free man, and the rule we have applied to the voter we would apply to the M.P. If party binds him so that he is not a free man he has no right to vote in Parliament at all. It is quite evident then that in such a school and in such an atmosphere the good citizen cannot be bred.

Where then shall we turn? I answer to the teacher and the preacher.