

CANADA'S OPPORTUNITY AT HOME AND ABROAD.

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Carlyle has said, "Of a man or of a nation, we enquire . . . first of all, what religion they had. Answering this question is giving us the soul of the history of the man or nation. The thoughts they had were the parents of the actions they did; their feelings were parents of their thoughts; it was the unseen and spiritual in them that determined the outward and actual; their religion, as I say, was the great fact about them."

I. we would rightly interpret the history of the nations of ancient or modern times, we must understand their religion. Religion has ever been the most potent factor in individual and national life. Dr. Lyman Abbott in a recent article expresses this thought where he states that nature worship has given to the world Africa, agnosticism represented in Confucianism has given to the world China, pantheism has given to the world India, and Christianity has given to the world Europe and America.

Canada's supreme opportunity at home is not in the development of her resources; or in the regulation of her trade; or in the improvement of her political relations or even in the establishment of a navy, or in all these combined—her supreme opportunity at home is in making the religion of Christ a real and vital thing to all her people, and her supreme opportunity abroad is in helping to make this religion known to the non-Christian nations of the world.

Canada's opportunity at home.—That we may better appreciate the greatness and significance of this opportunity let us briefly recall to our minds the extent and general characteristics of our country and the number and character of our immigrants and settlers.

Canada with a present population of not more than 7,000,000 is larger than the United States including Alaska, the Philippines, Porto Rico, and its other possessions with their combined population