

deepest, most prevalent agency, seems to have been simply the fact, that since Mary's reign, the nation got hold of the Bible. It was the Bible that made the Puritans, those stern men of iron, who resisted Charles I, brought him to the scaffold, and for about twenty years ruled England in the fear of God. The Puritans made the English Revolution, and they did it by bringing the Bible to the front. All the nation was seized with a passion for Bible reading. In the churches, in the houses, on the field of battle, the Bible—the English Bible, in the common tongue—was the book of the English revolutionists. None can read the history of the wonderful period of that century, which terminated and culminated in the accession of William Prince of Orange, without perceiving that the mighty power exercised by this book over the English mind was the deep-seated agency that made the British nation a free and a Protestant people.

Now, we must bear in mind the immediate practical results of the English Revolution:

1st. From the time of the accession of William, the sovereignty of Great Britain was really transferred from the King to the House of Commons. The King is no longer above the law. The nation rules itself and secures its own liberties.

2nd. From the accession of William, until to-day, no one can sit upon the British throne but a Protestant, in communion with the Church of England, by law established.

I do not propose to enlarge upon these great principles. They form simply the mode chosen by the nation to express its freedom and its Protestantism. The grand point to be noticed is, that the act of settlement under which all our monarchs, since William's time, have reigned, has absolutely no value, excepting as it expresses the fact that loyalty to freedom is higher than loyalty to Kings; that Protestantism means liberty, and Romanism means tyranny; and that Englishmen will dethrone a King, go through the perils of a revolution, aye, shed their blood in defence of these grand truths, and in vindication of the rights that they involve. These are the truths that you symbolize upon your banners, and in which your presence here to-day expresses your belief. When I look at the insignia of your ancient society I see prominent amongst your symbols an open Bible, emblazoned and surrounded by a halo of glory. What does this mean in connection with your Orange lilies and ribbons? What do these things mean in the light of history?

1st. That liberty depends upon the open Bible in the hands of the people; the Bible that gives to men the only system under which human liberty can be enjoyed and kept from degenerating into wild excess or license.

2nd. They mean, further, these Orange insignia, that loyalty to freedom is one of the highest duties of men, and that Protestantism is the friend, and Romanism the foe of human liberty.

3rd. They mean determination to uphold civil and religious liberty, based upon the Word of God.