

not unlike that of Adam and Eve in Paradise, when the destiny of the race hung upon their obedience. We need but little of the seer's power of vision to discover, through the long vista of the coming years, the "many generations" of our posterity looking anxiously to us, to see how we perform our part. Let us give them cause to heap blessings, not curses, upon our graves!

Very vividly are these thoughts brought home to us at the present hour, when we are awaiting our entrance upon a new and larger form of national life, joining hands with our fellow-colonists by the sea, and expecting one day also to embrace those of the Islands and the far inland in one "new nationality." We should spend this period of transition in a prayerful vigil, entreating the God of Nations to give wisdom from above to all who will order these affairs.

It is our earnest belief, that it is not only the *right* but the *duty* of a Christian citizen to concern himself in all that affects the welfare of the State. Yet this is not the place for the discussion of many of the questions now demanding the exercise of a high order of statesmanship. An exception to this rule of propriety, however, is found in those matters where the action of the State touches religion and the church.

It is one of the happiest signs of the times in which we live, that the unnatural alliance once subsisting in every nation between the power which yields the secular sword and that which wields the sword of the Spirit, is being universally dissolved. Such an alliance secularizes the Church without consecrating the State. Yet, in their blind following of tradition, some of the founders of *this* State would fain have included this feature in the design. The attempt was defeated, and that—let it never be forgotten—very much through the exertions of a small band of greatly-reviled Nonconformists; while now, those set free against their will are wisely rejoicing in their liberty! Yet there is still not a little danger that, through the college and the school, there will be that *indirect* subsidizing of religious bodies which, being contrary to a sound fundamental principle, will be sure to breed mischief in the future.

Especially dangerous will such an error be in a land like this, where we are confronted on every hand by a Power which, claiming to be the sole representative of Jesus Christ on earth, not only demands the subjection of individual consciences, but also a supremacy in all national affairs. Once it was able to dispose of kings and kingdoms at its will. And even now it aims to gain by craft what it then accomplished openly; in both cases through the superstitious fears of men. This organization of a corrupted Christianity possesses almost absolute control over one half of the population of Canada. In one part of the Province, it builds its churches and maintains its priests by taxes levied under the authority of law; it has appropriated a large proportion of the National Schools; it perverts public charities to its own ends; it exercises a censorship over the Press; it sometimes overawes the Courts; and it is wont to dictate to Cabinets. Firmly entrenched in the centre of the land—