

SOME THINGS TO BE THANKFUL FOR.

THAT I AM A BRITON.

One of the grandest names in the world. It stands for greatness, freedom, honor, bravery, strength; and, let us be thankful that it stands in so large a measure for goodness and righteousness. Long may Britain stand strong in righteousness, the shield of the defenceless, the refuge of the oppressed.

What is the secret of Britain's greatness? Some might answer, her guns, so great, her ships, so strong, her men, so brave. Britain's queen was once asked this question by a royal visitor from another land; and, pointing to the Bible, she said, "that is the secret of Britain's greatness."

And she was right. That Book contains the principles of all true freedom and greatness, and in proportion as that Book is honored in that proportion will a people be free and great. That Book is God's law and in proportion as it is obeyed, will God be on the side of the nation.

The study of the S. S. Lessons for this quarter shews that it was not the nation with the largest armies that won the victories and remained unconquered by other peoples, but the nation that had God on its side. Long may the Bible be the Magna Charta of Britain's freedom, the secret of her greatness; and long as we live may we give God thanks that we are part of that world wide Empire.

THAT I AM A CANADIAN.

There is another name, Canadian, that is near and dear to us. It has not as yet so much of a history. It does not mean so much so far as its history is concerned, but it means much as to its future and that future is in our hands. By each one making our own little corner of Canada good, will Canada as a nation become great, a true and worthy part of that Greater Britain to which we are thankful to belong.

As we study the history of Israel in our S. S. Lessons for this quarter and see a nation decay through sin, may we earnestly resolve that so far as we can do it our nation shall stand in righteousness; that we will choose good men to make our laws; and above all that the Law of God may be in every home in all our broad land from Atlantic to Pacific seas.

THAT I AM A PRESBYTERIAN.

Another grand name, that we should be thankful for.

1. Because it takes Jesus Christ as the only King and Head of the Church.

2. Because it makes the Bible, the whole Bible, and nothing but the Bible, its source of authority in all matters of teaching and church government. The second question in our catechism is answered by "The Word of God which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy Him."

3. Because it has ever stood for freedom: it teaches the liberty of each one to study that Bible for himself and to worship God according to his own conscience. And not only in Church but in State it has ever stood for liberty and against tyranny.

4. Because it has been a martyr church; its teachings leading men, in the power of the Spirit, to give up life rather than the truth.

5. Because it is a missionary church, and each year it is becoming more so; and that is the true object for which the Church of Christ exists.

Of this grand Presbyterian church, which numbers twenty millions of members and adherents throughout the world, let us try to make the PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA, OUR OWN CHURCH, a worthy part.

THAT I—? A CHRISTIAN.

This is the grandest name of all. Given as a nickname, to a few followers of Jesus Christ, by their heathen neighbors in Antioch, nearly nineteen centuries ago, it has gone around the world, gradually winning the world to itself, and it shall go on until the whole world is won.

It is grand because it is good. All the good in the world comes through it. Wherever it comes it brings blessing. It brings in with it all that is good, and before it all that is evil shall flee away.

It is grand because it is the name of the King of Kings, and to bear His name and His character is the highest, grandest, destiny of man.

What wonderful love that should lead the Christ to come among sinful men to atone for their sin by His death, to renew them from sin and death by the power of His Holy Spirit, and make them His own, Christ ones, Christians.

It is well to be a Briton. You are one. It is well to be a Canadian. You are one. It is well to be a Presbyterian. You are one. Best of all is it to be a Christian. Are you one?