

is sensitive to those errors and vices by which national greatness is eventually destroyed. He may see the greatest patriot who is always vaunting the power and prowess, the wealth and magnificence, of his country. But he is *not* the truest friend to his country who protests against the unjust laws on its statute book, the errors which degrade its citizens, the vices which disgrace its body politic.

SACRIFICE FOR NATIONAL WELFARE.

This is illustrated in the case of that patriot and statesman, one of the first on the list, Moses. He set the nation above his personal interests, above his family glory. He would not merely die for it; he is ready to spend his life for it, and prepared to suffer unknown sorrows in its behalf. The Christian Church should ever be ready to influence the nation for good, and to make sacrifices for its welfare. A religion that does not issue in practical patriotism is below the standard of its divine Founder who declared, "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's." The nation is of God, as well as the family, and the loyal Christian in the spirit of self-sacrificing love, is willing to give time, money, influence, and even life itself, that the nation might be righteous, cultured, free and renowned.

CHRISTIAN PATRIOTISM VALUABLE.

It is often thought that the grandest power in the state is the power that *rules*; but really the most efficient power is the power that *prays*. For he who prays well, is ready to take up arms in defence of the rights and liberties of his country when occasion calls—not only a good man, but a brave man. Said General White, the hero of Lady Smith, "Those on whom commanding officers can place most reliance are the men who meet in their prayer rooms and who are banded together in the association in which prayer rooms are the centres." The Christian man is the true citizen, the brave soldier. The man of prayer is the man of patriotism. The patriotism which seeks to spread the knowledge of God, to secure the keeping of God's laws; to vindicate the sanctity of God's day; which pleads with God on behalf of the nation, as it sins and suffers—this patriotism is of essential preciousness. The man who truly loves his country will strive to live well himself, and will seek to bring God and the nation closer together, for it is righteousness in the long run, rather than eloquence or commercial greatness, or military prowess, that exalts the nation. But when righteousness characterizes the state, all other elements of national greatness follow in its train.

THE DUTY OF LOYALTY.

The first duty of the member of a family is love of home and those who belong to it. However poor or humble it may be, he feels bound to it by no ordinary ties. He defends its interests. Above all other households he loves his own best. Now, as the state is the larger family, the duties of those who compose it correspond to those belonging to the members of the household. Hence the true citizen will love his land; his own country is dearer to him than any other on earth. As we have seen, he is ready to live for it in self-sacrificing effort; he is willing to die for it, if necessary. History records with affection the names of such men as Wallace, Bruce, William Tell, Garibaldi, Wauchop, who sacrificed much for the land they loved, and for the principles they held dear. And as "peace has its victories no less renowned than those of war," it has been the pride of others to serve their country by guarding its liberties, increasing its happiness, diminishing its evils, and reforming its ways. While our brave boys from Canada are spending their strength, and spilling their blood, and yielding their lives on the altar of their country and Empire in far-off Africa, holding the old flag and the principles it represents dearer than life itself, may we

who remain at home, add to our country's glory, and our common Empire's greatness, by living lives noble and true, pious and patriotic, and thus increase the sum of our country's moral prowess, intellectual power, commercial prosperity, and national freedom. Ye youth of Canada! on this national holiday, the Confederation Day, this First of July, Anno Domini, 1900, surround the flag of your country, the flag with a noble history, the flag that represents to you the power and protection and national principles of the Greatest Empire on the earth—surround that flag, and while you make the welkin ring with your loyal cheers, pray for God, in whose hands are the destinies of nations, to bless your native land, to make you not only loyal citizens of Canada, but above all, faithful subjects of the King Eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God—to whom be honor and glory for ever and ever.

OBEDIENCE TO LAW.

Another primary duty of the loyal citizen is obedience to law. Here again we have the rule of the family extended to the State. The child is bound to obey his parents, unless they bid him do what his conscience clearly tells him is wrong. So, a good citizen will obey the laws of his country, unless those laws are so evidently unjust that the good of all demands that they should be resisted. Whatever the law is, he will endeavor to respect and obey it. If he believes it to be an unjust or unrighteous law, he will do his best to get it amended or abolished.

JUST AND REASONABLE LAWS.

Government is in the hands of the people, or of the people's representatives; on them devolves the making of the laws by which the country is governed. They are bound to do their best to see that these laws are what they should be, equitable and righteous, and for the interests of the whole community. In electing representatives citizens are bound to choose men who are men who are worthy of the trust committed to them, who will make laws just for every class. Wherever a man exercises the privilege of choosing a representative, he is obligated to do so conscientiously, and with an earnest desire to perform what is right. It is a maxim in law that what we do by another we do ourselves. We are responsible for those whom we choose to make our laws, and if we help to choose unworthy men we cannot be held blameless of the consequence that may follow. We hear people say sometimes that they have nothing to do with politics. But by keeping aloof, they cannot rid themselves of their responsibility. If there are evils in connection with government, the best way to get rid of them is for good men to take a part in public life, and try to bring about a better state of things. In a free country no man can justly shake off his obligations by refusing to take part in public affairs. The talent intrusted to us we must use for the glory of God and the good of man. Our political power, however small, is such a talent, and we are responsible for its proper employment.

THE GOOD OF THE STATE.

It is the duty of every loyal citizen to take a direct part in all that he believes is for the good of the state. A man's duty as a subject of government does not end with the ballot box. A nation's well-being is secured largely by the voluntary efforts of its members. All can take a part in forming a healthy public opinion. This is done in all free countries in various ways, through the press, through public meetings, and by means of the speech and communications of everyday life. If our views, continues Dr. Lees, are those of a minority, we may help by our influence, for example, the fearless expression of our convictions, to turn the minority into a majority, and the views of the majority will ultimately prevail. The true citizen can also take an active part in promoting all

objects that tend to the well-being of society and the welfare of the nation. But loyalty, as we have pointed out, should be the outcome of religion. He who fears God will honor the king, and he who renders to God the things that are God's, will also render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's. Religion thus becomes the strength of the State, and the nation becomes safe and secure when these principles are enforced, and these conditions fulfilled.

FLASHLIGHTS.

Here are the marks of the true patriot: He loves his country, but he loves still more the kingdom of God.

He cares too much for his country to uphold her in any wrong.

He does not reserve his patriotism until he has a chance to die for his country; he lives for her.

He does not urge the selection of the best men for candidates, and then refuse to serve when called upon, though at the cost of time and money and inclination.

He does not vote for bad men, and then plead that he did not know they were bad. He takes time to investigate the characters of candidates.

POINTS FOR THE PRESIDENT.

Make this a thoroughly patriotic service. Sing patriotic hymns. Have a brief paper or address on "Our Country, its extent, population, resources, advantages, and possibilities." Let this be followed by the paper or address on the topic, "When is a nation safe?"

Decorate the league room with flags, bunting, and national emblems. Convey the idea to the young people of the League that it is part of our religion to know intelligently, and love fervently our country, and to do all that lies in our power to exalt it in those qualities that constitute a nation's greatness. May the Epworth League of Canada be an irresistible force for national righteousness, and lofty patriotism that shall make its mighty influence felt from the Atlantic to the Pacific throughout the length and breadth of our great Dominion!

JULY 8—"THE POWER OF SMALL THINGS."

Mark 3: 1-32.

HOME READINGS.

Mon., July 2. The Creator in the world. Gen. 1: 2-22; Ps. 19: 1-36; Matt. 10: 29
Tues., July 3. God using men. Gen. 40: 1-41: 34
Wed., July 4. Line upon line. Isa. 28: 9-13
Thurs., July 5. Day by day. Exod. 10: 14-15
Fri., July 6. Binding the fragments. John 13: 28
Sat., July 7. Calling out latent forces. Matt. 4: 18-22

One way of estimating the power of small things is to observe the life of our Saviour, and notice how little deeds, little words, little prayers, little sympathies marked his earthly mission. The parables, too, reflect the importance of little things—the shepherd seeking the one sheep, the woman searching for the one piece of silver, the little leaven working in the midst of the meal, the joy in heaven over the one repentant sinner, the benedictions pronounced over the lit. e faith no larger than the mustard seed, the blessing invoked upon the five loaves and two fishes and the careful gathering of the fragments. His whole ministry from stable to mansion is made up of little deeds—talking with one woman of Samaria at Jacob's well, telling one man of the necessity of regeneration, shedding tears at the grave of Lazarus, teaching a little band of followers how to pray, preaching the Gospel one Sunday afternoon to two disciples on the way to Emmaus, making a fire and broiling a fish that his disciples might have a breakfast after toiling all night. If we would learn the power and necessity of small things, study the ways of Jesus, and there we shall find a model