

The Puritans took to the Legislative halls a coolness of judgment and a firmness of purpose which could come only from an ever present sense of their responsibility to God.

Lastly, the Faith of Puritanism was a living faith, leading to the ideal Progress. Confident faith is as necessary for the advancement of a nation as for the development of a man. The faith of Puritanism was no weak trembling faith. They were not content with the passive attitude of simple faith, but they assumed an active, aggressive attitude, which leaped over self-love, trampled down despotism, and set its face toward the dawn of better days.

Puritanism has progressed since its inception and consequently the British nation has advanced. Puritan free thought and faithful purpose have found their way to the floors of Parliament, to the places of business, into the homes of the citizens, and proportionately the decades have been progressive. The banner of progress is being unfurled the wide world over, and loftier heights are yet to be reached. Puritanism is and ever will be a life-giving stream with its great fountain head in God. Rejoicing in freedom as its birth-right, it spent its strength in enriching the national life of England, and yet retains an immortal vitality. The ideas and methods of Puritanism may be out of date, but its ideals will never fade as long as God and Conscience exist.

The Puritan loyalty to conscience, love of righteousness, and faith in God, are living forces to-day, elevating our political life and purifying social and religious sentiment.

The Puritan ideal is "reforming the Reformation." Progressive men, inheritors of the Puritan spirit both in Great Britain and America, are looking in the same direction, and marching forward with mutual co-operation for the attainment of the grandest aims of Christianity.

The Puritan era is over, but its ideals are yet the under currents of national life, and this is why Great Britain and America lead the van in civilization, commerce, arts, sciences, literature, in social reform and religious life.

The issues of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries are past, those of the nineteenth fading, and those of the twentieth are upon us. The Puritan ideal faithfully maintained and carried out, has the potency to make the Church and State of the twentieth century, the ideal unity, with the assured word of God as its centre, with human opinions and convictions grouping themselves about it in infinite variation and variety.

H. A. S., '95.