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"THEY DESIRE A BETTER COUNTRY."

SUCH was the commendation bestowed upon the Old Testament worthies who died in faith of better things to come, and their desire was shown by their manner of life here.

The desire for a better earthly country is shown in the same way. The barbarous hordes from Central Asia swept down over Europe; the Norse sea-kings made Normandy their home; the pilgrim fathers crossed the sea; because they desired either a richer or a freer land. Many of the young and strong from our own land go South and West, seeking, often in vain, a better country.

A higher, nobler, ideal than that of searching abroad for fatter fields to satisfy this desire, is the effort to make our own a better country. The aim of every true patriot is not merely to do the best that he can for himself in the country which he makes his home, but to do the best he can to make his country a better one, more prosperous, more free, and pure; and this work is not limited to the talented or wealthy few, but is within the reach of all, and the effort never fails of attaining some degree its desired end.

The man who owns not six feet of mother earth yet aims to build up in himself a nobler, truer, more unselfish manhood, is making his country a better one; not only to the extent that he makes himself better, but he shapes other men, makes the community better. No man can live an honest, earnest life, without influencing in the same direction those with whom he comes in contact. The farmer, who, with industry and care and economy, makes his farm, small or large, a model one, is making his country a better one, not only to the extent of his holding, but he stimulates others to do likewise.

The man who exerts his influence for the benefit of the community in the promotion of temperance, education, or other public good, is in some measure making a better country. The man who carries into his "politics" a high and pure ideal who sees in his ballot a sacred trust, can do much to impress his convictions upon his neighbors and help in the making of a better country.

Along the line of church life and work all have an influence for good. No other agency has so much to do with the betterment of any land as the Christian Church. This influence is largely exercised by the individual congregation in the community, and each man and woman has in that influence a share.

There are, in addition to this, the great Schemes carried on by our Church for the public good. What a place in the true progress of our country is filled by the Home Mission work of our Church. Were the outlying districts of the older Provinces and the great North West not reached by the Home Missionary they would soon lapse into practical heathenism, with its lawlessness and crime, and would in their turn react with baleful blight upon the older parts of the country.

It is beyond question, too, that ours would be a better country if the one and a-quarter millions of her noble French-Canadian people were free from the bondage of Rome and Clericalism, and all the ill results temporal, mental, moral and spiritual, that flow from such bondage, and were free, with the Word and Spirit of God as their guide, to think and act for themselves in the management of their affairs. Our Church is trying, as best she can, by means of schools, colporteurs, and missionaries, to give them freedom, and in this way help to make our country what all desire to see her, "a better country."

But no man who honestly aims to make his own country a better one is satisfied to rest there. His sympathies reach out to others, and he desires a better world. In this, too, our Church is engaged in the world's centres of heathenism and sin. The great Church schemes of Home, French, and Foreign work, are agencies in which every Church member has a part, and for which, according to his means, he is responsible.

In this grand work, along every line that we may seek to advance it, we are co-workers with Christ; and in all such work we receive more than we give. In seeking to make oneself a better man, one makes a better country; in trying to make a better country, one makes himself a better man.