

SERMON

1st Kings, 8th chap., 57th vs.

"The LORD our GOD be with us as He was with our Fathers."

These are the words of King Solomon at the dedication of the great temple which was to be the outward sign of Israel's unity, and GOD'S presence with His people. The sense of sin and consequent weakness had humbled the people and driven them to their knees in prayer and intercession.

TO EVERY NATION THE TEXT IS A PERPETUAL WARNING.

This nation had gone wrong, the heart of King and people had been turned from GOD, their religious unity had been broken by internal dissension, the kingdom rent asunder by King David's death, and all the horrors of a devastating war loomed darkly before them, and the long misery of captivity overshadowed them.

GOD had always promised His people to be with them so long as they were loyal and true to Him, but this splendid promise was too often forgotten. Now their hearts are touched by the hand of GOD and they cry out to Him in their trouble *"The LORD our GOD be with us as He was with our Fathers."*

In this most critical period of Canadian history the text well represents OUR NATIONAL PRAYER AND HOPE.

"The LORD our GOD be with us." We cannot do without Him. Some of us seem to be