

Our Young People

Our Country.

Topic for July 1.—Deut. 26: 1-11.

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord."

For Dominion Presbyterian.

When a Nation is Safe?

BY WOODFORD.

Topic.—Although literally the experiences of nations, as of individuals differ, practically they are wonderfully similar. Now, as of old, it makes for the safety of a nation, when people, born in a certain land or settling in the same as strangers, show they realize that the Lord their God has given them that land. It is not those who consecrate the firstfruits, and are to be found in the place where the Lord chooses to place His name that go to make up the class that is at once a menace and burden to society. Those who forget that the blessings and privileges of society are in answer to the prayerful labours of our fathers and that more through their labours than our own do we enjoy much that is ours, will fill prisons and necessitate the costly keeping up of an army of criminal officers to guard them in their Egyptian bondage—into which by reason of their sinful thoughtlessness they have been decoyed. Was it not by the good hand of God that in the battle on the Heights of Abraham this continent was delivered from the absolutism in state and church of France. The result of that battle was that there was made possible on this continent the development of a people, the underlying principle of which should be the right of a man to himself liberty of conscience, deliverance from the mandate of a king whose simple word was law, and from a priestly hierarchy substituting for the Bible an Apostate Church. With us as with the Israelites, as we remember God in our history our nation will be safe.

Monday.—Through the instrumentality of men of the type described in this Psalm, Britain's greatness has been attained. Bright and Gladstone were great statesmen who, despite all the cares of office, found much time to meditate in the Word of God. Supporters and opponents of such men knew they would consent to nothing mean or dishonest. In the British army and navy there has been not a few men of the type of General Gordon. Of the hero of the hour, General Roberts, a notable war correspondent, writes in "The Daily Mail."—"Lord Roberts never smokes tobacco and with drink he has little to do. He has never been known to use an oath, and indeed there must be comparatively few men whose religion influences them so deeply as does his in every affair of life. He never parades his piety, never forces it upon those around him. Yet on every Sunday since he joined his army he has attended divine service. Not a word has he ever spoken in his staff, suggesting or ordering their

presence—yet he is certain to attend the weekly service—an example to the army so modestly and so persistently presented that it cannot help but be powerful. When he took the sacrament at Driefontein, the other day, in the face one might say, of the whole army, it was without a hint of the parading of religion. All saw it an act of simple faith." Drunken carousals by way of celebrating the victories in the Transvaal can scarcely be honouring to "Chaplain Bobs" who has the reputation among his soldiers of "bein' 'ard on drink." Men of this type deserve success; and any other kind of success than that which is theirs, and which comes from communion with God will but produce dissension and disintegration.

Tuesday.—How shall we as individuals do our part that the safety of the nation may be guaranteed? Is it not eminently reasonable that we should trust in the Lord and do good, so that the expulsive power of such an affection may be felt in ourselves and in our land? More often than not, with a groan of despair we leave matters to Providence, whereas the Word of God says "Delight thyself also in the Lord." There would be less stuffing of ballot-boxes and bribing of elections if more people committed their way unto the Lord.

Wednesday.—Lack of reverence for the past is surely a sign of shallowness of nature. It means for the nation and the individual what the stony ground means for the seed. Were we wise to think more of the commandments in which our fathers found life, the laws, observance of which, by it the sweetness and patience of our mothers, much sorrow and desultory living would be spared us. We dare not forget that they have lived for us—wherein they failed or made mistakes they give us warning; wherein they succeeded they inspire us.

Thursday.—Possibility is often spoken of as if it meant the reality. The possible is made real by action. God is in man when man by his life is in God. Pantheism sounds well, but for practical purposes it is pitifully pithless. We cannot love an impersonal God: and unless we love God we cannot keep His commandments. We say we love the British nation, but has anything been more clearly shown lately than that this love is centred in "Our Gracious Queen." At home and abroad alike Britons are statesmen, soldiers, sailors, citizens of the Queen—whom, having not seen, we love. It was a French soldier who, when a bullet was being probed for in his side, said to the surgeon, "A little deeper and you will find the Emperor." Such a man could

not be a traitor to his country. Blessed are they in their lives and for the nation they belong to, to whom Christ is so in them the hope of glory.

Friday.—Have not our fathers told us what God did for them in days of old? Is it not into the fruits of their labours according as they were laborers together with God, that we have entered? Concerning the destruction of the Spanish Armada our father's said "DEUS FLAVIT ET DISSIPATI SUNT." Even Victor Hugo concludes his account of the Battle of Waterloo—a victory that meant so much to Britain—by saying of Napoleon "God was angry with this man." To forget God in our national life will mean to us what it meant to the Israelites—Egyptian bondage. Babylonian captivity. Dispersion.

Saturday.—Happy indeed is that nation whose God is the Lord—their future is secure. The Lord is indeed a Good Shepherd and the flock is well-led in following Him. The flock of God make the place of their feet; the land through which they travel to the places prepared by Him, glorious. In this spirit we may well sing of "Our Land" as does the poet, your church.

Our Land.

BY R. S. G. A.

There is no land like our land
The sea calls to the sea,
"The mistress that has ruled us,
Has a daughter fair as she."
Oh! this may love the Kopje
And that the blue gum tree;
But this land is our land;
And Canada for me!

There is no land like our land;
Where, mistress of our own,
We lead the breed of Empire
To guard the ancient throne,
And the Old Land keeps a welcome
For her kin beyond the sea;
But this land is Our Land
And Canada for me.

There is no land like our land.
We want no other lack;
The flag that fired our fathers
Is the pilot on our track
O, this may woo with thunder,
And that in wiles be free,
But this land is our land
And Canada for me!

There is no land like our land,
Our day is at the dawn;
Our waking stirs the nations;
We are no feeble pawn,
And the Old Land grimly listens,
And the Alien frowns to see;
But this land is Our Land;
And Canada is free!

There is no land like our land:
God keep it ever so:
And heart-throbs shall be drum beats,
When we find our country's foe.
O! this may love the Southland,
And that may cross the sea:
But this land is Our Land
And Canada for me!

For Daily Reading.

Mon., June 25.—The safe man. Ps. 1
Tues., June 26.—Guarantees of safety. Ps. 37: 1-11
Wed., June 27.—Obedience is strength. Prov. 6: 20-28
Thurs., June 28.—God is man. John 14: 19-28
Fri., June 29.—Providence in the national life. Ps. 22, 4, 5; 44: 1-8
Sat., June 30.—Securing the future. Ezek. 35: 20-31
Sun., July 1.—Topic.—When is a nation safe? Deut 26: 1-11. (A patriotic service).