

by all only because they are not believed. In the exercise of this influence there is no vanity or pride, no presumption, no boasting, for glorious as it is, humility is its foundation. Here is no jealousy, no jostling for pre-eminence, no distinctions of birth or station, of wealth or talent, of age or sex. Here is admission welcome and audience for all, not one simple and earnest petition is rejected or forgotten; but every humble suppliant bearing on his heart the most momentous interests of a whole land is heard with deep attention and tender love by him who inhabits the praises of eternity; and who shall complain of the only limitation he places to full compliance with every request "*in so far as it shall be for his own glory and for his people's good.*" Now is not all this wonderful though it appears consistent with the whole tenor of Scripture, and with many instances furnished by sacred history? And if so, is not every one neglectful of his duty to his God and to his country who does not seek to assume that position in which, however able or influential he may be in other respects, he can really do more service than in any other way, and in which, however humble, he is assured by God he can at least do something? And may we not justly call on all our fellow subjects to cease awhile from their doating dependence on men and measures and expedients, their looking for promotion to the north and the south, the east and the west, their contrivances and their changes, until they seek awhile the prosperity of their country from Him who alone can insure it? Awaken then, ye who are Christians, to a consciousness of the resources with which you are furnished and to a proper sense of the true dignity and influence with which, as children of God, you are invested, and go for your country to the throne of grace by that way which Christ has opened and consecrated for you.— And just by how much the more you are anxious or unable to discern, to advise, or to act for the public good in the present crisis of our affairs, so much the more frequently and earnestly in your family and in public, commit all the interests of your country to the wisdom of the only wise God, and to the protection of the blessed and only potentate. Pray that the sins of the land may be forgiven, that more time and grace may be given us to learn righteousness, and above all that that spirit whose habitation in the land alone can bless or secure us, may be abundantly poured out on the hearts of both rulers and people. If such a prayer be offered and answered, as assuredly it will be if offered in sincerity and truth with a firm

belief that though not the only, it is the first and best service you ought to render, then how blessed will be the result! The thick cloud of our sins will be blotted out, the thunders of judgment will roll at a distance, and the sunshine of prosperity will again beam upon us.— We shall see in the promotion of true religion by our Government, and in the practice of it by the people, the best security for our future welfare, the deeply laid foundations of grace and comfort, and the true and heaven-appointed defence against evil, whether in the form of internal agitation or outward assault.

None can, however, fail to see how closely all this is connected with personal religion. If for ourselves individually, we seek not God, if we are not moved with a deep anxiety about our own immortal souls, deep sorrow and reverence to Christ as our own Saviour, we can never expect to be heard when we come to intercede for others. Dishonouring God ourselves, insensible of our need of his friendship to ourselves, and personally, neither fearing his judgments nor acknowledging his justice nor repenting of our offences, it is an impious mockery of Heaven to think that we can enjoy the honour of being successful petitioners at His Throne for a whole community. In such a case we must only be guilty of the inconsistency of adding to the sum of that iniquity,—unbelief and irreligion of which we deprecate the punishment, and with daring insolence seeking on behalf of others the blessings which we do not deem it worth our while to seek for ourselves. We cannot take a proper part in national humiliation, or in intercessions which, on a day appointed for that purpose, arise from all the Churches and Christians in the land, unless we have personal convictions of sin, personal trust in God through Christ, personal resolutions and endeavours after amendment and true holiness of heart and life. If we continue to "regard iniquity in our hearts, the Lord will not hear us" either for ourselves or for others, and instead of occupying on such a day the truly honourable and influential position of protectors of our country, we shall be only provoking God to more "fiery indignation;" for it is not until we feel how great is His mercy in permitting rebellious sinners such as we are, to approach Him with confidence for ourselves that He will admit our claim to the high honour and privilege of deprecating the wrath due to the sins of a whole irreligious and ungrateful Province.

C. C.