

thing which it has received before. We have peace, and we are using our time of peace, let us hope, to good purposes for our country and for posterity. After a sober survey of our position, though not enjoying the dignity of national independence, I am bound to the conclusion that there are few lands in the enjoyment of more substantial national benefits. Allied as a province to the leading commercial nation of the world, and the only important European nation that can be regarded as constitutionally free, we are under an undeniably mild political rule, and our growing national importance forbids any attempt at political coercion, or undue interference with our concerns, on the part of the mother country. If we are behind our brothers of the Anglo-Saxon race on the other side of the frontier in some things, we have the blessed privilege of being free from the dark stain of Slavery, and surely this is a great deal. For competence, integrity, energy, and enterprise, there is full scope in our land. Industry is rewarded. Property is secure. Altars are free. Homes are sacred.

The call of God is ever on us to use these great privileges to their highest use. The daily events of his Providence are teaching us momentous lessons. Every devastating war that we hear of invites to solemn meditation, and ought to be taken as a warning against those lusts which the Christian Apostle declares to be, and which we ourselves feel to be, the root of all wars and fightings. The want of harmony in our own members — the lack of peace within — which comes from the passion and sin that we cherish there, calls for humiliation of spirit and penitence of heart. As we see great and powerful nations crippled in their efficiency by official incompetence,