

of the nations represented, have had a large share in inspiring and guiding the promoters of the Canadian association for the dissemination of social science, in the inauguration of a new society.

It may be claimed by some, that in a young and prosperous country like ours we have nothing to fear from the moral and social disorders that are so formidable in European countries. At present we are indeed comparatively free from some of the more virulent forms of vice and moral disease that destroy nations. The time to be alarmed, however, is not when the evil has come, but before it comes, so that barriers may be erected to arrest its progress.

Separated as we are by an imaginary line, called the forty-fifth degree of latitude, from a nation whose laws relating to Marriage and Divorce are exceedingly lax and very varied in the different States, and whose sentiments respecting family responsibility are growing in an anti-christian and even criminal direction, we ought to give the most earnest heed to every abnormal indication, so that our country may be saved from the fate of some of the older civilizations of the world, and from the dangers that threaten the countries of Europe to-day.

There is no short path to the goal of national excellence. The road must be paved with scientific and moral teaching, and hedged by strong and christian legislation.

Instruction should begin with the family, which is a divine institution. It is most essential and desirable that this first unit of social organization should be raised to the dignity which God intended it to possess, through pure moral environment and religious and useful instruction.

Where purely *material* progress and *outward* development only are made the goal of human life and energy, parental responsibility and filial duty are apt to be woefully depreciated. Hence, to the ennoblement of that sacred realm of human life in the family circle, shall the efforts of our Association be mainly directed.

The great and only safe basis on which all domestic, social and national greatness rest, viz.: on a knowledge of God and