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From the Editor's Pen

PATRIOTISM—“Nothing is perman-
ently helpful to any race or condition of
men but the spirit that is in their own
hearts, kindled by the love of their native
land.”—Ruskin.

Much is being spoken, and more writ-
ten, these days about the future of Can-
ada as a nation. It is an attractive and
popular theme, and surely merits careful
study by all who desire the highest good
for their country. The theme involves
many questions that are intimately re-
lated, and momentous issues depend on
the manner of their solution. With but
one of these vital questions, however,
have we to do here, but that one we
esteem of greatest import to our children
and youth. It is suggested by the brief
quotation from Ruskin given herewith.

To love one's native land so as to seek
only her permanent good is to possess a
spirit out of which the highest and
noblest patriotism will grow and in time
become manifest. To instill such affection
in our children and to encourage its ex-
ercise in helpful ministry by them for the
greatest national good, is obligatory on
all who assume the duties and responsi-
bilities involved in leadership of the
young. Sunday Schools and young
people's societies have an important mis-
sion here, for our children are in danger
of forming wrong conceptions of national
greatness, basing them on merely phys-
ical or material values rather than on
those immeasurably more important
moral and spiritual possessions without
which no nation can be truly great.

The strength of a nation is determin-
able only by the godly character of its
people, and the worth of national charac-
ter is but the sum total of the virtues
individually possessed by the citizens
who dwell within its shores. Every man
and woman either adds to or subtracts
from this sum total of national character,
and every boy and girl is being fitted to
either strengthen or weaken it by the life
to be lived when youthful years shall
have grown into mature adult life with
its potent daily influence for good or evil
on all around.

Citizens of to-morrow are largely in
the boys of to-day. Failing to inculcate
in them now the spirit of true patriotism,

they will eventually contribute nothing
of permanent value to the wealth of the
nation. But given a true estimate of
national life as they develop intelligence
and grow in powers of useful service, the
boys of this generation will become
strong men in the next, and will prove in
active manhood the reality of what they
first obtained in childhood—a hearty
affection for their native land. Though
in early years this may have been but
a sweet sentiment, it will become an
absorbing passion; the dominant spirit
shown will be of the type designated by
Ruskin, and will prove itself permanently
helpful to the strength and stability, the
grandeur and glory, of the nation in
which, and for which, they live.

There is a worthy patriotism that
prides itself in being willing to die for
one's country; but there is a nobler patri-
otism that proves itself true by living
for it. To give one's life in battle for the
defence of the nation's honor is good, but
to devote one's life to high and noble
aims for the maintenance of the national
character is better, and to embody in
social service for the permanent uplift
of the whole people, is best of all.

If such a spirit is to be engendered and
nourished, the whole Church must be
alert to improve the opportunity, and
the youth with the priceless agency of
practical righteousness in every walk of life.
Not to prepare our children to die happy
so much as to fit them to live righteously
is our first great duty. Not just to get
them ready for Heaven in another life
but to teach them to extend heavenly con-
ditions in this, must be our supreme aim.
So to live that nothing “that worketh
abomination or maketh a lie” shall be
voluntarily allowed a place in their own
lives or gain their assent in the life of
their fellow-men, must be the practical
issue we set before them as they grow.
We want our young people to love Can-
ada with an affection so pure and strong
and with a spirit so unselfish, that they
shall count no individual character too
high and no personal service too exacting
if it will but add lustre to the fair name
and permanent worth to the godly virtues
of their native land. So shall they be
patriots indeed.

Weekly Topic Calendar

July 21.—Literary and Social Department.

—Subject: David's Lament over Saul and Jonathan; 2 Samuel 1: 17-27. Mr. Lennon's article on page 157 will be both interesting and edifying.

July 28.—Citizenship Department. Subject: The Struggling Masses; Nehemiah 5: 1-3. In addition to chapter III of “My Neighbor,” read Dr. McArthur's article on page 162.

Aug. 4.—Consecration Meeting. Subject: The Good Samaritan; Luke 10: 25-37. Suggestions on the Topic are given by Mr. Armstrong in his article on page 154.

Aug. 11.—Missionary. Subject: China's Challenge to the Christian Church, Psalm 72: 8-19. Study the helpful article by Mrs. Stephenson on page 149. Send to Dr. Stephenson for books on China for your library.

July

Then came hot July boiling like to fire,
That all his garments he had cast away;

Upon a lion raging yet with ire
He boldy rore, and made him to obey;

(It was the beast that awhile did foray
The Nemean forest, till the Amphytro-
nide

Him slew and with his hide did him array.)

Behind his back a scythe, and by his side
Under his belt he bore a sickle circling wide.

—Spenser.
July was originally called by the Romans “Quintilis,” being the fifth month of their year, but was changed to “Julius,” in honor of Julius Cæsar. In Saxon it was called “hay month,” as they used to cut their hay at that season.—Learing.