

Few really know the value of citizenship and the important part they unwittingly play in the drama of existence. But if it is an honor to be a citizen of any country or of the world, that honor demands a tribute, and that tribute consists in the performance faithfully of the duties of a citizen.

What, then, are the duties of a citizen? They are five-fold:—1st, towards God; 2nd, towards himself; 3rd, towards his family; 4th, towards society and 5th, towards humanity at large. Let us glance for a moment at each of these duties and on some future occasion we may have an opportunity of enlarging upon the subject.

The citizen owes first of all a duty to God—to serve, love and obey Him, and in so doing he is enobling himself and edifying his fellow-beings. To serve and love and obey the commandments of the One who gave him the *golden* gift of Creation, who presented him *myrrh* of Redemption's Sacrifice, who offers him the *frankincense* of the eternal prayers of His Holy Church

Such duty when performed towards God, at once reflects upon the person himself and he necessarily fulfills that great duty which is the second and which he owes himself. That duty consists in the proper use of all those means innumerable, which God has given man, to enable him to act according to His laws in this world and to enjoy an eternal happiness in the world to come.

This duty which a citizen owes himself broadens out into the duty he owes his family. Man is not created to live alone. In the eternal order of things we find that he must necessarily hold communion with his fellow-men. The man cast out upon a frail plank on the billows of the ocean, or parched upon the sands of the Sahara, even at the moment when life is ebbing and all hope gone, his mind flies to some dear one left at home, or memory conjures up the scenes of his affection and old associates flit around him. And even when the last breath is given, and the soul goes forth, it is to continue that communion, for it merely joins those spirits that had precedence in the flight. Thus by ties is man bound to man, and no Alexandrian sword was ever forged that could sever the Gordian knot that binds him to his family.

Then comes the citizen's duty towards Society. Society is merely an enlargement of the family; it is the aggregate of families. And duties well performed towards the family reflect upon the whole social sphere in which he lives. And in strictly performing those duties he proves himself a worthy member of the great