

NATIONAL SPIRIT AND THE LAW.

Such songs and the inventions, the traditions and daily habits that regulate and support our existence, and the teaching in family and school mentioned by Carlyle generate in a united people a National Spirit, or National Soul, that is, if they are worthy a place in history. A Swiss Bluntschli enunciates it thus:

"The nation is not a mere sum of citizens; and the State is not a mere collection of external regulations. . . . The one national spirit which is something different from the average sum of the contemporary spirit of all citizens, is the spirit of the State; the one national will, which is different from the average will of the multitude is the will of the State To extend the reputation and the power of the State, to further its welfare and its happiness, has universally been regarded as one of the most honourable duties of gifted man."

The nation exists to develop the most perfect type of citizen, of loyal citizen and to further the welfare and best interests of all who compose it. To that end there is nothing more sacred, more essential than the protection and fostering of a sane group mind and laudable national ambitions.

It is said the past lights a lamp for the guidance of the present age, but the national spirit though originating in the past is not only a light but a leading and compelling power, and gives direction to national activities, aspirations and laws.

"There is a mystery in the soul of state
Which hath an operation more divine
Than tongue or pen can give expression to."

(Shakespeare).

Why are the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, and those Dominions under the Southern Cross, so alike in song, in sentiment, in laws, why? Because though they possess diversities of gifts, they are born of the one spirit, the British spirit, they are many members but one body, that is, one enveloping civilization in which there should be no schism.

"TO CIRCUMSTANCE AND CUSTOM LAW MUST YIELD." (Span. pr.)

Now the sources of a nation's song and spirit are the causes of a civilized nation's laws, but there is this difference—the songs and spirit lead in the formation and confirmation of customs, usages and habits, then law follows, sometimes too far