

of a nation, therefore, consists in justice, mercy and humility. These are the formative principles of national existence. The opposite of these—injustice, cruelty and haughtiness—tend to national disintegration and ruin.

Ideals give shape and quality to the whole current of life, personal and national. The current may go slower or faster, may, indeed, have retrogressions; on the whole, however, it moves towards its goal. Given a nation's ideal and we know its life. Its ideal gives tone and color to its literature, art, business, society and religion. A nation without an ideal can have none of these true. Only as there is a soul in a people are its undertakings representative of what is real and enduring. Real men make and demand healthy literature, elevating art, sound business, worthy society and religion "pure and undefiled." False men vitiate every channel of human enterprise. The house of Esau lives for present advantage. Its methods are expediency and utility. To it the jewels of home and religion are trampled under foot, not worn upon the head. The house of Jacob, remembering its spiritual birthright and not bartering it for a mess of pottage, realizes heaven's purposes in the world by walking in the light of Jehovah.

National life demands instruction in the principles of righteous living, because a nation to prosper must walk in the light of Jehovah. Things move in this world unheeding our arbitrary, selfish pleading and living. Well did the author of "Past and Present" write when he said, "There is one Preacher all must hear. His name is Divine Providence and His sermon the inflexible course of things."

"Nations who believe not in the existence of virtue sit in darkness and the shadow of death." Missionaries to heathen people assure us that one of the obstacles to their work is the disbelief of those to