

suppliants at our feet and round our firesides. They ask for instruction in religion and morals adapted to accountable and immortal beings ; they beg for schools and books that they may be free and intelligent men, and not doomed slaves and vagabonds ; they implore training and habits, such as will make them an honour and blessing to their age and country. Have they not a right to expect thus much at our hands ? If the educated men of Canada neglect the succeeding generation, who is to care for them ? They are orphans with living fathers ! And if in material, how much more in moral and intellectual things is it true, that "If any provide not for his own, and especially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith and is worse than an infidel !"

III. Our third illustration is, 'that Educated Men are trustees of the best inheritance for their country, and they should nobly fulfil their sacred trust.' The real greatness and power of a country consist not in geographical territory or mineral wealth, but in the intelligence of its people. "Knowledge is power" in a nation as well as in an individual. The *civilization* of a country is but its educational development ; and the degree of its civilization depends upon the character and extent of its education and knowledge. This constitutes the essential difference between North and South America—between France and Spain—between Germany and Turkey—between Great Britain and China—between Greece in the times of PERICLES and PLATO, and that same Greece in the times of the Crusades—between Rome under the CÆSARS and Rome under the LOMBARDS ; yes, to reverse the order of contrast, between England under the family of STUARTS, and England under the BRUNSWICK family. And who but the educated men of a country are the depositaries of the intellectual elements of its power and happiness ? It is for them to say whether Canada shall rise or sink in the scale of countries—whether it shall advance or retrograde in the race of civilization—whether they themselves will be the theme of their country's praises or execrations in a coming age. In this work of mind's development there is no party, but the party of ignorance against knowledge—the party of selfishness against patriotism. In this bloodless campaign of intellectual progress, Canada expects—nay, commands—"every man to do his duty." And shame upon the educated man who does not give to the next generation the education which he has received from the past ; shame upon the man who has furnished himself with intellectual arms out of the public arsenal, and then hides away from the battle of civilization against barbarism, and thus betrays the trust of his country !

The historical allusions just made painfully admonish us that the cause of mind may go backward as well as forward. It is so with individuals ; it is equally so with neighbourhoods, provinces, and nations. What monumental warnings have we of this in the countries which skirt the shores of the Mediterranean ! There was once a great intellectual republic extending, at different periods, from the Atlantic to the Euphrates, and from the Euxine to the mountains of the Moon. In that republic, many of the faculties of the human mind received a development of power and of beauty which has never been surpassed. Greece was long the metropolis ; but her civilization was not confined to Athens alone, or to a few renowned cities ; its domain stretched from Iberia in the east to Gallia in the west—including Sicily and Magna Græcia, round all their coasts, the Ionian Shore, the islands of the *Ægean*.