

down his arms and hand over the leadership to another. Before he ascends the rugged mountain of Nebo, from whence he is to view the land that he himself may not enter, he blesses the assembled host, and gives them, at the close, for a watchword the words which I have chosen as my text to-day—"The Eternal God is thy refuge and underneath are the everlasting arms, and He shall thrust out the enemy from before thee."

It was a momentous time in the history of Israel. It was a time which demanded a watchword to give union and cohesion to a people waking, in the vigor of national youth, to a sense of patriotism and divine mission. They stood at the gates of dominion, with fierce hordes confronting them, and giant difficulties to be overcome; yet with the sense that their cause was God's cause, that their achievements were to be His achievements, that their glory was to be His glory. "The Eternal God is thy refuge and underneath are the everlasting arms, and He shall thrust out the enemy from before thee."

My brethren, as we look back to that far away time, when the wandering tribes from Egypt broke the power of effete Canaanite civilizations and finally set up a Kingdom in Jerusalem, under a sense of direct mission from Jehovah, we are filled with amazement at the marvellous unity in the working out, through the course of history, of the prophet's prediction. Crude and barbarious as may have been Israel's idea of their choice by Jehovah, hideous as may have been to modern eyes, trained to Christianized warfare, the form of vengeance wreaked upon their fallen foes, by the people of God, we can nevertheless see, looking back over three thousand years, that the half civilized tribes, pouring from the southern mountains into the valleys of Jordan, animated by devotion to God and law, bore with them the charter of the world's freedom.

The sense of mission, whatever may have been their national faults, and they were many, kept them a distinct unit amid the surrounding peoples, until at last the dream of prophet and lawgiver and psalmist was fulfilled, and of a meek Hebrew mother whose soul had been prepared by the religious influences of Israel's past history, He was born whose birth made all men brothers, whose death can make all men kings. From one end of the earth to the other, modern civilization, directly or indirectly, traces its origin to the birth of the God-Man among the people of the race whose watchword of old was "the Eternal God is our refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms."

My brethren, it is in no spirit of blind patriotism, nor is it with any sense of incongruity, that I pass from the divine mission of the Hebrews of old to that of the Anglo-Saxon peoples of to-day. We stand to-day as an Empire, comprising one-fifth of the human race, in the van of civilization. The charter of the world's freedom, once grasped by the warrior hands of ancient Israel, surely rests now in the keeping of England and her great daughter empire of the West. Israel's Sinaitic law is our law, Israel's God is our God, and with a wider conception of responsibility than Israel ever at-