

citizen, and a more useful and worthy member of society. By it is the virtuous impulse of *patriotism* strengthened and sanctified. By no other power can patriotism be raised to so high and holy an elevation. Paul had experienced the quickening and sanctifying energy of spiritual Christianity, and, therefore, as I have said, the *quality* of his patriotism was the highest possible of human attainment. Paul was a *patriot*, before he was a *Christian* patriot. The patriotism of Paul the Apostle was broadly distinguished from that of Saul the Pharisee. He was a Hebrew of the Hebrews. So intense was his national spirit, that he gave himself with all his energy to the suppression, by the use of the most violent means, of that which he believed inimical to their national traditions and hopes. The new life he found in Christ Jesus did not destroy the spirit of patriotism in him. It sanctified it, gave it loftier purposes, and inspired it with a holier devotion. As a Christian his soul went out with all the intensity of its affections and impulses towards his kinsmen and countrymen. "My heart's desire, and prayer to God, for them is that they may be saved." Sometimes his words may impress us as reckless extravagance of language. But they are not so. He speaks with the utmost deliberation, under the profoundest sense of the divine sanction. Listen to his words, "I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience bearing witness with me in the Holy Ghost, that I have great sorrow and increasing pain in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were anathema from Christ for my brethren's sake, my kinsmen according to the flesh; who are Israelites; whose is the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises; whose are the fathers, and of whom is Christ as concerning the flesh, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen." Such was the sanctified passion of this noblest of Christian patriots.

And such was his passion for the well-being of his kinsmen even though his special mission was to carry light and salvation to those races alien to that commonwealth that so enslaved his affections and interest. Away in a western land, ministering to the spiritual wants of other races, his heart still throbs with the warmest and strongest patriotic aspirations. My heart's desire, and my prayer to God, is for my kinsmen that they may be saved.

And such was his patriotic passion even though his kinsmen treated him as a renegade, and hunted him with relentless madness from city to city. This was over again in *Paul* the matchless spirit of Christ Himself. Hear Him, whom his own people despised, rejected and crucified,—“O, Jerusalem,