

chief glory of our rational nature disappear together. Then if we are not

"Creatures of blind chance
Dropped by wild atoms in disordered dance"

we are at least "poor wanderers on a stormy sea" who from "wave to wave are driven," and the most that we can do is to smooth down the ills of life and nurse the slender elements of happiness within us. But we have not only a surer but a more joyful word from the Great Father above. His advice to his children is, "In all thy ways acknowledge God and he will direct thy paths. He will give his angels charge over thee to keep thee in all thy ways, they shall bear thee up in their hands, lest at any time thou shouldst dash thy foot against a stone." Yes, that voice of love admonishes us, "When ye pray say our Father who art in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread."

But Providence in the opinion of many has reference exclusively to individuals. Corporate bodies are proverbially skeptical. Christian men in companies have oft consented to run steamers and railway trains on the Lord's day, and yet never dreamed of opening their own shops or offices; and good men are silent when those who in high places are acting for them and others, are leading the nation in a course of hostility to the law of God. Responsibility is forgotten or thought to be dissipated among the million like the electric fluid, when it strikes earth or ocean and diffuses itself in ten thousand directions. Such silence is wrong. Responsibility remains. It is indeed diffused over all, and the righteous Lord will treat corporate bodies as well as individuals, according to their deeds. If the nation exists by divine appointment and if the legitimate functions of government are ordained of God, then surely it is amenable to divine law. If Christian men forming an insurance company or a railway company are bound in their corporate capacity to act rightly, so are they who constitute a commonwealth, whether civic, provincial or national; and when we open the Bible we find in fact that nations as such are addressed, commanded, encouraged and threatened.

A few points both of resemblance and of contrast between personal and national responsibility, may be here noted with propriety.