

will I trust have its effect upon the other branches also ; and we may hope that we shall have many such proofs that our people are becoming more alive to the duty and the *privilege* of assisting to send forth that blessed book which can alone teach a man to get beyond the cares of this life, or give him any sure and certain hope in that which is to come.

We possess, in this Dominion of Canada, all the elements of material prosperity, and the past year has been one of progress and success in almost all branches of industry and commerce; but there is after all but one sure foundation upon which we can hope to rear a lasting fabric of true and durable political strength and social prosperity, it is that which our gracious Queen, when she sent a copy of the Scriptures to the Queen of Madagascar, inscribed upon the book as being the true source of all the grandeur and glory of England, *the teachings and influence of God's Holy Word.*

Sentiments of honor which in fact owe their origin to Divine Revelation, like everything else that is really good or great, may do much to keep men in the paths of rectitude. Ambition and the desire for distinction, we must all admit, are powerful incentives to honorable actions ; but the longer I live and the more I have observed of all that is passing around me, both in public and in private life, the more deep and settled has become the conviction that it is the Bible alone, and familiarity with, and reverence for its teachings, which can permanently promote commercial honor, elevate and refine our social intercourse, or preserve the freedom and purity of political life.

And now my friends permit me to allude for a few moments to what has been taking place abroad since our last anniversary meeting. While with us the months have been passing in tranquility and peace, Europe, as you know, has been the scene of a fearful struggle between the two greatest nations of the continent.

France and Germany have been engaged in a long and bloody war, terminating in the defeat and humiliation of the former power, and now being followed by still more fearful civil strife and intestine discord, which are likely to prove more ruinous to France and its once gay and luxurious capital than all the successes of the Germans. But amid all these dreadful scenes of human suffering, there have been some bright spots upon which the Christian's eye could dwell with satisfaction, examples of love and sympathy and self-sacrifice presented by those who went forth to minister to the wants and sufferings of the wounded and the dying, without distinction of creed or nation.