

## CANADA'S DANGER.

The unexampled prosperity which Canada is enjoying at the present time has become the theme for pardonable congratulations in many quarters—among public and business men, in the press, on the public platform, and in the pulpit. It is well that the people should be reminded of, should take note of, the great prosperity which our country is enjoying, and the halcyon days through which we are passing should evoke recognition of the fact that for these blessings we are dependant upon a beneficent Providence, the Creator and Preserver of the universe; and while sincerely thankful for the blessings of prosperity, we must not forget that prosperity has its dangers as well as its blessings.

We are pleased to note that this view is being noted not only by the religious but also by the secular press. In times of prosperity we are apt to forget the Doer and Giver of All Good and act as if the intelligence, enterprise and energy of our people, displayed in utilizing the magnificent resources with which our country is endowed, were the chief factors in bringing about our prosperity. We must not forget that the hand of God is in these things and that He is the author and bestower of these blessings, and this recollection should awaken genuine thankfulness in our hearts and evoke corresponding evidences of gratitude in our lives.

There is also the danger that our prosperity may become a snare to us, giving encouragement to habits of prodigality, extravagance and waste among the people and their rulers, leading to luxury, licentiousness and corruption in the body politic, and creating conditions which may ere long eventuate in national disaster. The people of Canada must make no mistake on this point. Gibbon's "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire" illustrates what we mean. In the case of that once great world power a long period of national expansion and material prosperity, accompanied by a defiant ignoring of the power and requirements of the great ruler of the nations, resulted in the body politic being honey-combed by corruption and licentiousness growing out of luxury and extravagance, and the great empire disintegrated and fell to pieces. We would do well to take note of the fate of this and some others of the great nations of antiquity.

Then we must not forget that if Canada is to expand in true national greatness, our rulers and people must maintain that righteousness which exalteth a nation. This we must never forget. As was pointed out in these columns recently, increase of population, development of great national resources, acquisition of wealth and sturdy independence among the people, are all important factors in creating national greatness, but they are not sufficient of themselves. Unless they are based upon that "righteousness which exalteth a nation," moulding the aims and character of rulers and people, we cannot attain to true national greatness. It was England's great historian Froude

who once said: "No nation ever became great without the fear of God"; and the Halifax Recorder emphasizes what the great historian uttered by saying, "Nothing is more certain than this, that upon only one foundation can national greatness be built, and that is Christian manhood."

We quote the following paragraphs from the Halifax Recorder's article:

"We have had our times of adversity and have triumphantly surmounted them. They have simply acted as a tonic, and we are all the better and stronger for them. What of the golden days that lie before, which will test the moral fibre and stamina of our young nation as it has never before been tested. This, it seems to us, is the great predominating problem of the hour."

"The world is littered with the mouldering fragments of magnificent civilizations, which apparently immovably compacted, once stood four square to every wind that blew, and which miserably perished, not by any outward shock, but wholly by their own inward corruption, and the same fate will overtake our own much vaunted Anglo-Saxon civilization, if we forget God and become the devotees and slaves of Materialism. Never had a nation to-day greater reason to rejoice with trembling than our own. For our day of real trial has begun."

We hope the press of Canada will press these things upon the attention of our people.

## S. S. CONVENTION AT ROME.

The magnificent progress of S.S. work is indicated by announcement of preparations for the fifth world's Sunday school convention to be held in Rome, May 29 to 23, 1937. The U. S. delegation will sail from Boston aboard the steamship *Romanic*, April 27, and will land at Naples. En route the delegation will conduct missionary meetings for the promotion of Sunday-school work, at Funchal, on the island of Madeira, and at Gibraltar, Algiers, Genoa and Naples. British delegates will travel in a company overland, holding Sunday-school rallies in prominent cities of France, Switzerland and northern Italy. In Rome on Saturday evening before the assembling of the convention, a great fellowship service will be held for mutual acquaintance among the visitors. The following morning the communion of the Lord's supper will be observed in all the Protestant churches of the city. That afternoon Dr. Campbell Morgan will preach the opening convention sermon. General sessions will be held afternoons and evenings; mornings will be given to special conferences conducted in four languages—Italian, German, French and English. Prominent speakers will be Rev. F. B. Meyer, Hon. F. F. Belsey, and Rev. Frank Johnston, of England; Dr. John Potts, of Canada; Messrs. E. K. Warren and Marion Lawrence, of the United States, and Bishop Harzeil, of Africa.

He who is willing to preach on the street corner will find his pulpit grow into a tabernacle.

## LITERARY NOTES.

In the November Blackwood's (Leonard Scott Publication Co., New York), we find an interesting criticism on Sir Henry Irving called forth by the publication of two works having for their subject this great actor. Another most readable article is Charles Whibley's on New York: Gotham from the Englishman's point of view: "Thus you carry away from New York a memory of a lively air, gigantic buildings, incessant movement, sporadic elegance, and ingenious patronage. But when you have separated your impressions, the most vivid and constant impression that remains is of a city where the means of life conquest life itself, whose citizens die hourly of the rage to live." "Musings Without Method" is entirely taken up with a discussion of "The Times" as a champion of cheap literature. It is impossible to go into details of the struggle going on between "The Times" and the publishers in England. We quote the concluding paragraph of the article: "Much has been said during the present controversy concerning the declining sale of books. This decline has been attributed, with great recklessness, to the high prices which authors and publishers put upon their wares. The attribution we believe to be wholly false. During the last fifty years the price of books has steadily decreased. Even in the last decade the novel, in the general eye the only form of literature, has dropped from 31s. 6d. to 6s., and drops after a decent interval, from 6s. to 6d. And if we would explain the ruin which is said to stare authors, publishers, and booksellers in the face, we must look elsewhere. Nor have we far to look. Over-production has been the curse of literature, as of many other industries. There are too many publishers and too many authors. Everybody writes a book nowadays who can hold a pen, and, as the cost of paper and ink is light enough, publication is not difficult. But this is an evil only to be cured by a change of fashion and a higher standard of merit. "The Times" neither could nor would bring about a better state of things, and we look to the issue of the present struggle, confident that dignity and sobriety will win an easy victory over the wiles of the advertiser and the methods of the cheap-jack."

A huge number of illustrious names among the writers in the November Fortnightly (Leonard Scott Publication Co., New York) give a promise of a literary treat—a promise which is not broken. Among others we have Dr. E. J. Dillon on The Russian Problem; Maurice Maeterlinck on The Measure of the Hours; H. G. Wells, Socialism and the Middle Classes; Flora Annie Steel, Picturesque India; and Henry James, Richmond, Virginia.

We may go up to the mountain top for transfiguration, but we must come down to the valley for the common-places of life. Meditation may be in the highlands, but duty lies for the most part in the lowlands. But if we would do our work aright on the plain we must not forget the preliminary fellowship with God.