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WHAT CAN WE DO FOR OUR COUNTRY ?

THE condition of the country in which we live, be it ours by birth or adoption, must naturally be fraught with interest and concern to every right thinking mind. Attachment to the native soil is one of the strongest principles implanted in the heart of humanity, and as it flourishes in greater or less enthusiasm, so will the country which excites that feeling proportionally rise in the scale of social and political importance. Every man has a stake in the land in which his habitation is cast. Its prosperity is in a measure his own, and any change in its condition, though it may not directly affect his individual interests, still as a unit in the great mass which forms society, his character and prospects must be involved in its well being or adversity.

It is not so much the character of the individual, as of his country, which entitles the stranger to consideration in a foreign land. The Englishman who seeks a home in a distant region, may be neither brave in battle or distinguished in science, yet as a son of that glorious dominion, whose proud flag may not 'float over a slave,' and whose benevolent laws secure a home to the exile and a refuge to the oppressed, he is received honourably for the sake of his birthright, the 'glorious charter' of Englishman, and honour to his country is reflected in the hospitality shown to himself. Every subject shares in the honour of his nation; and it is from this conviction that a Briton so defends the honour of the crown and the glory of the laws, because he is thereby maintaining his own cause, and defending his own birthright.

The prosperity of a country, then, in a great measure depends upon the attachment manifested to it by its children. Those who strive unitedly together for the public good will eventually be rewarded by public prosperity. When the energies of a people work in concert for the promotion of an object, the result, (proving the truth of the time-honoured maxim that 'union is strength,') has ever been the ultimate success of that cause. When a handful of Spartans overthrew the force of the approaching tyrant, it was because they were devoted to their country and united in their efforts, and by the indomitable strength of those principles, they conquered the oppressor, and made the