

# SERMON

DELIVERED BEFORE ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY, SUNDAY, 27<sup>TH</sup>  
NOVEMBER, 1887, BY REV. A. P. McDIARMID,  
IN KNOX CHURCH, OTTAWA.

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*ROMANS X., 1.*

"Brethen, my heart's desire and my supplication to God is for them, that they may be saved."

*Theme*,—THE CHRISTIAN PATRIOT'S PASSION.

THESE are the words of a true Christian patriot. No finer example of patriotic virtue and heroism has ever been exhibited than that presented in the life of the Apostle Paul. The *quality* of his patriotism is the highest possible of human attainment. Christianity sanctifies all the springs of human life. It purifies and ennoble, more and more, every natural grace and virtuous impulse of the heart. It inspires the soul with the broadest, loftiest and most hallowed conceptions respecting all the relationships of life. Thereby it kindles in the soul a lofty and sanctified enthusiasm for the performance of the duties based on these various relationships. The spirit of Christ in a man's soul clarifies his vision in regard to all his relationships and obligations, and, at the same time, inspires his soul with purposes and impulses respecting his duties that lift his life up to a grander and diviner elevation. "If any man be in Christ he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold all things have become new." Vital Christianity touches with renovating and quickening power every spring of the life. The father whose heart throbs with the love of Christ rises to higher and holier thoughts and aspirations respecting his child, than the father who lives outside the conscious influence of this divine power and inspiration. Whatever be the relationship under consideration, true and living Christianity gives broader and loftier, purer and diviner conceptions regarding it. By it the soul is made to throb with a quickened, deepened and more hallowed vitality. It makes the husband a better husband; the master a more considerate and humane master; the servant a more conscientious, faithful and cheerful servant. It makes the man in every respect a better