

nations we are to our sorrow and fear rapidly providing our share.

A hundred years ago we sprung into national existence, with such a start as no nation ever has had or ever again can have,—law, order, civilization—not of our creation, but by inheritance. A country so rich and inviting, that the world is rushing to our shores for bread and blessing. As a people we started with a clear organization of God, and a full acceptance of religion. No matter what the varying phase of the religion, yet the great doctrines of Christianity, God and His law, were not only accepted but deeply rooted in the minds of men. We started with an overflowing feeling of brotherly love for every member of the Republic, let him be from North or South. Liberty gave us fraternity, unity, courage, intelligence, obedience, and religion reverence for God. Yet amid all these reasons for success, inside one hundred years of national existence we have had a civil war whose proportions stagger belief, and whose enmities ages will not wipe out. Twice within these seventeen years has the assassin's bullet struck down the Chief Magistrate. Corporations, dangerous to the future, are growing up. Senators, legislators, magistrates are for a price. The interests of the people are made subservient to the gains of legislators, and politicians are willing to rend the fair fabric of order and peace if only they can build for themselves on their ruins.

The pulpit is fast losing its influence on the people; men are rapidly ceasing to believe in religion as a positive and binding creed. Indifference or positive scorn for religion and churches, is rapidly growing up; impurity and intemperance are rapidly spreading; the sanctity of the person, the sacredness of property, of law, of justice, are passing away, and in their stead lust, impurity, irreverence, intemperance, desecration of the Sunday, are overshadowing the land. The impossible is being attempted in the effort to make men virtuous with an education from which God is expelled; as well expect to make men religious without a knowledge of God. The young fail to respect the old, and irreverence stalks the land.

In the face of such facts, thinking men are beginning to ask in solemn anxiety, is this dissolving process to continue, or is there no hand, no power to save us from ourselves? Are we to fail? Is our effort at self-government to become a by-word? Are the tears and trials of our forefathers all for naught? Is the blood so freely shed to create and maintain our liberties to be shed in vain? Shall we be made the slaves of brute force? Shall the soldier and the cannons become our peace-maker?

As a people we have said God is not necessary for our success, we will trust to the intelligence of the people, forgetting that conscience is needed to guide intelligence. Man with intelligence without conscience, is power without balance, and must end in disaster to self and society. If we will succeed, as a people, we must build on religion, on reverence for God and on reverence for authority. We must teach the young to reverence the old. We must teach the old to reverence God, and we must teach all that liberty does not mean licence. We must further teach, and teach with a force that will command a hearing, that no man has a right to believe what he pleases, nor to say to God I will accept or reject Thy law according as Thy law pleases or displeases me. God's law is above man's law, God's religion is above man's religion; religion is of God and religion must rule and direct the nation as well as the individual. If we will live as a nation we

must draw nearer to God. If we will be saved the horrors of war and fratricidal quarrels; if we will restore truth and honesty among politicians; if we will teach the young obedience and the old reverence; if we will teach all that law must rule; and if we will save the country from a repetition of political assassination we must teach the people a knowledge of God. We must teach all that it is for God to rule and man to obey; that State and statesmen, nations and people are alike responsible to God, and the law of God rules them as well as individuals.

There can be no possible doubt, that if we as people, or as a nation, continue to make mammon our God, and power our ambition we will fail. God cast off the Jews because they rejected Him, but the crime of the Jews did not begin with the days of the Savior. Long ere His birth they had forgotten God and sought for gold. They rejected Christ because He did not bring them political power and refused to make them a great and powerful nation. Take heed lest God deal in like manner with us. As a nation we are fast forgetting the spiritual, and giving our hearts to the temporal. We are forgetting God; forgetting His Church; forgetting His Sunday; forgetting His law. We are giving ourselves up to the world; to the pride of life; to the lust of the flesh, and as a result, murder, assassination, lust, impurity, greed, injustice, are our portion.

It is our duty to pray for our Rulers, and law-makers, for all in authority, that they may be guided by wise counsels, that they may be God-fearing men, and that they may learn that they are for the people, not the people for them. It is our duty to pray for the Chief Magistrate of the nation, that God may restore him to health, temper his actions with mercy and justice, strengthen his hands to guide and direct the destinies of the country and enlighten him to choose the right and reject the wrong, not forgetting that his office makes his person sacred, and law gives him power and the right to obedience.

It is also our duty to pray for our common country; that peace may reign within, that unity and brotherly love shall guide citizen and citizen in their intercourse one with another; that religious strifes and contentions will cease; that the weak shall be protected against the strong and that no man shall suffer injustice; that life and property shall be protected and that law and order shall prevail. We must lay aside sectional strifes and enmities. There must be no North, no South in our common country. No matter what our politics or religion we must obey just law and respect the magistrate. Law is above the individual, and before it society must bow. We will fail as a nation, as men fail as individuals, if we assume that law has its origin in man. Law comes from God and has its power from God. When men assume that they have a right to accept or reject the law of God according as it suits them they cannot consistently refuse to permit men the right to accept or reject the law of the State according as it suits them. But such doctrine is fatal to the existence of Society. Yet is proclaimed as fitting for God.

If we live as a nation and prosper as a people we must draw nearer to God; we must make His law our law, and learn that neither State nor individual can live and prosper except on virtue, but virtue comes from religion, and religion comes from God.

Calamities such as at present the country mourns are not usually in punishment of the sufferer, they are usually in punishment of the sins of the people, and are sent or permitted by God to humble nations and