

boundless licentiousness in morals lured them to destruction. Greece first became powerful, rich and great through the industry and energy of her people and then, this very greatness, power and riches through public and private vices only precipitated her ruin. Their great error was in ascribing to arts, literature and politeness, the power to soften and control the human heart, which power belongs exclusively to religion. Had Greece been a monarchy and the prospective sovereigns educated in the art of Government and in the principles of true religion how different might have been the results.

What shall be said of the Romans? A handful of banditti rendered themselves in a short period the lords of the universe. Rome, from being an ordinary town in Italy became foremost in genius and arms and at length was unrivalled in imperial magnificence. How was that? The foundation of her greatness was laid in principles of extraordinary virtue, personal industry and frugality of her citizens combined with remarkable simplicity in their manners. In the early age of that republic there was an inflexible regard for justice, a vigilant attention to private morals and an impartial execution of their laws. Her colossal power was erected upon such a foundation and though she remained mistress of the world even at a time when these virtues had begun to decline, yet, there was some of the salt which had not lost its savor and these good principles had not ceased entirely to operate. The internal growing weakness of Rome was evident to many of her wise scholars and statesmen long years before her final dissolution. The lust of gold and the lust of power were greedy passions that monopolized their souls. Also private vices, seditions, privy conspiracies and other deadly sins contaminated this once virtuous, industrious and powerful people. The very maxims and principles that raised them up to such an eminence were now held in contempt. Profligacy, venality, speculation, oppression, vain glory and hypocrisy were followed by a gradual descent into the lowest depth of degradation in singular contrast to the high altitude of power and glory she had attained to before. Rome in the days of her pristine severity of manners and Rome in the last days of her free and careless conduct exhibits a contrast that should be a lesson to all nations of the world. Surely righteousness exalts a nation while sin is a disgrace to any people. Systematic and serious instruction to the youth of all nations in the divine prin-