

seems to have entailed upon them a speedy extinction. Of the nations that now subsist, which are they that are most distinguished and honored in the world? Which are they that hold truth and righteousness in the greatest repute, and that have given the best proofs of a cultivated humanity? Which are they where the good arts and sciences are most profoundly studied, the knowledge of them most extensively diffused, and the benefit of them most generally experienced? Which are they whose population is at once most liberal and united, at once most enlightened and submissive to the laws? They are not those from whose soil the richest harvests might be carried away, nor those that are most populous, nor those that, as a people, under an acknowledged system of government, have had the longest lease of their tenement. Are they not those, where divine revelation has been most fully proclaimed, and where it has injected its light upon the foundations of their public institutions? Are they not those, in short, that have assigned unto God an honourable place for the worship of his name? not a place here and there, scrimp and accidental as the various humours of men, but a "house of many mansions," all His own, not a material and temporal kingdom, but dedicated to God, a part of his spiritual and eternal kingdom.

In extending your benevolent regards to the relief of the temporal distress of your countrymen, let it not be thought you have nothing to do with their eternal interests. You are understood to respect and hold in honour the religious faith that is common to you and them; and if you either honour or respect it let it not be abandoned. It is of all things most necessary that it should be determined aright, how far what is good may be made efficacious; else, how miserable the thought that the morals of a people should be abandoned to chance, or endangered by the failure of any attempt to fix them on a sound foundation.

There is no one who possesses any love of his countrymen, (a principle which the formation of a St. Andrew's Society supposes,) who has any regard for the qualities which were wont to distinguish them, their honest faith and simple piety, who has any recollection of the fountain-head, whence any love of things sacred, flowed into his heart, that can behold, without profound regret, how soon the fine gold becomes dim in Canada—how