

NATIONAL STRENGTH.

In extent of territory the Dominion of Canada is larger than the United States, and nearly equal to the European Continent. But bigness is not greatness. It may be opportunity for greatness, but it is not greatness itself. A tall French general reached over Napoleon's head and handed him a book, saying, "Permit me, Sire, I am greater than your Majesty." "You are longer," said Napoleon. A man's greatness is not measured by his length, nor do length and breadth of territory make a nation great.

In climate, soil and crude material wealth, our Dominion equals any country in the world. But money does not always give strength. Athens in its palmyest days was not so wealthy as Chicago, yet no people has scored deeper marks upon the world's history than the Athenians. Where money is made the main object, the most unscrupulous men usually come to the surface. If we make money our main pursuit, we shall rise among the nations of the earth, but we shall rise as scum.

We have borrowed from the wisdom of all past ages to establish one of the best educational systems to be found on earth—but education does not always give national strength. Education is but a weapon to be used for good or evil according to the character of those who possess it. The three R's if not founded upon truth, honesty, justice and purity will only produce what some one calls a fourth R of rascaldom.

Least of all is the strength of this Dominion found in the number of its inhabitants. The question of numbers is wholly immaterial compared with that of character. A little milk and flour are better than much chalk and arsenic, and a few good and healthy men are more to be desired than a multitude of diseased rogues. The strength of this Dominion is not in its extent of territory, its gold, government, education nor multitude, but only in its sound multitude. The strength of this country is in its good men and good women; its weakness is in its bad men and bad women. Bad men are to a nation's wealth as a robber to treasure; they are to a nation's strength as rust to armor. They have power to blast, not power to bless.

We love our country, and our country is worth loving. Its queen, its government, its climate, its soil, its schools, its sanctuaries, supply charms which command our warmest affection and loyalty. The first demand made upon us by our country is that we be good men. Every bad person is according to the measure of his power, forcing his country down into weakness and shame. Every boy, girl, man and woman who is truthful, just, pure and honorable is building up this Dominion into greatness and strength.

JAMES ALLEN.