

not a great principle which lies at the foundation of our constitution, there is not a great principle which underlies our government, which is not indebted for its very life's blood and breath to this old English Bible about which we are speaking together this evening, and I say there is no one, however much tinged with infidelity, who is not better satisfied to find the Bible than the rum-bottle; a man, be he never such an atheist, feels more satisfied if he goes into a strange home and asks for a bed for the night, if he hears the voice of praise going up from those that are within, than if called to listen to some ribald song. These are the testimonies which the Bible has succeeded in wringing from the thoughtless and from the infidel in its efforts to control the minds and consciences of men. When Robert Raikes went into the streets of Gloucester and fished up little boys and girls that were making the air blue with profanity, the police soon found it out. They had not so many boys to arrest. They found that a new power for regulating conduct had got into these dark foul Gloucester lanes; and when good old Hannah More went down to the homes of the poor in old Somerset, and commenced her Scripture teachings, precisely the same discovery was made by the magistrates. I am sorry the magistrates in those days were not like the magistrates now, and did not appreciate how beneficial was the power that had come into those old Somerset valleys; but there it was, the power of God for making men and women better in their conduct and feelings towards one another. My friends, I would like to lay this upon everyone here this evening, apart altogether from its spiritual value, this Bible is the finest manual of moral conduct that the world has ever seen. Those old Hebrew prophets who wandered amid the wilderness and deserts of that eastern land were calm and deep thinkers who laid their hands firmly upon the great principles of life, and you will find if you read the old Hebrew prophets that there is scarcely a burning question to-day, that there is scarcely any great movement which is stirring the hearts and souls of men, but there are certain words in reference to it in those old and much honoured pages. It is not only that as a church-member and Christian you are benefited by Scripture, but Scripture comes to you and demands that you shall be better as a citizen, more honest as a trader, more loving as a friend, elevated by the very noblest idea of humanity,—and it writes under its commands this golden sentence: "Him that honoureth me, I will honour."

But there is something more than order and government, there is conscience; and the Scriptures have this wonderful power that they exercise supreme rule over my very conscience with grander sway than parliament or king. The Scripture takes the plummet line and lets it down into man's nature, and never stops until it strikes the conscience. I know that the Bible is true because it finds me at greater depths of my being than anything else in the world; yes, because it finds me even at the depth of conscience. It does not stop, it continues sinking down, down, down into the human heart. It never rests until it has grasped man's whole nature and is swaying there for God and humanity! Yes, sir, it is something for us to be proud of this evening, and thankful also, that we stand here to advocate such a Book as that. Is there a nobler place in this Canadian Dominion than the place which is occupied by your President this evening? I would rather be there now than in the senate or the legislature. I would rather be him to-night than even the Governor-General of your fair Dominion, for I believe there is no position more honourable than that in which he, as a man, so nobly sets to his seal that God is true, and gives his support and endorsement to the noble principles by which humanity is being guided Heavenward to a goal and destiny worthy of her expectations.

The Bible is not only the conservator of law, but also of character—it is the