

shall insure national success. She once proclaimed, "There is no God, and death is an eternal sleep," and soon the streets of Paris ran in blood, and her people have not recovered from this irreverence.

Look at Russia, a wasted exchequer, a boiling seething chaldron, filled with internal war, with her Siberia to which she banishes 12,000 of her subjects annually, yet the Czar trembles in fear. Old Germany is uncertain in her national affairs:

Bismark may do well, yet things are unstable. Prussia is jealous of Russia and Germany, when they get into dispute over a piece of territory, one is afraid and the other dare not; so they let the disputed spot organize as semi-independent, and they stand off. Go where old Vesuvius pours out her incense to God, and you will find Italy in intercene distress. Spain is in rebellion, so that the land of the Castilian is for freedom or war.

I cannot take up every nation in this, but you may feel the pulse of each one and take the diagnosis, and you will find internal commotion through and through, which only can be healed by an equal citizenship and the rights of the ballot box. England is fast approaching that point, and I doubt not there are those in my audience to-day who will see her place her first President at the head of her national power. There are now 19 Republics on the earth. The Republic of the United States, one in Mexico, five in Central America, nine in South America, two in Europe and one in Africa, beside other nations fast approaching that point, and they all look to America as their *beau ideal* of liberty. Have we not much then for which to be thankful; and, in fact, thanks is about all we can give to the Lord; we can't give him money, gold, mining stock, flocks, herds, broad acres, or sacks of grain; no, for the "earth is the Lord's and its fulness thereof." You know how you feel when you have done a neighbor a favor, yes, one after another, and then he turns away from you without even a thanks or a nod. So the high ground of Scripture which we should occupy is that, "every good and every perfect gift comes down from the Father of lights in whom there is neither variableness nor shadow of turning." "As the little stream flows to the ocean, its native home, so our thanks point to the great ocean of Divine love." This nation has a large and firm

faith, but "faith without works is dead." These thankofferings are the works of our faith. Atheism may give a fat living to one advocate who will go through the country declaim against Christianity, and burlesque Moses, but the heart of the people is for the right, church bells still send forth their sacred peals on each resurrection morning, and call millions to the house of prayer and thanksgiving. "The population of the

United States has increased eleven times over in one hundred years, while churches have increased thirty-seven times over, and one hundred years ago there was one church for every 1,700 persons, now there is a church for every 520 persons," besides there are more persons studying the Scriptures now than at any former period of the world's history. Our God does not confine his habitation to a dew drop, but he has a "house not made with hands eternal in the

heavens." Gen. George Washington said: "It is impossible to govern the world without God. He must be worse than an infidel that lacks faith, and more than wicked that has not gratitude enough to acknowledge his obligation." Andrew Jackson said, pointing to the Bible on the stand: "That book, sir, is the rock on which our Republic rests." Samuel Adams, in a letter to Thomas Paine, said: "Do you think that your pen, or the pen of any other man, can unchristianize the mass of our citizens? or have you hopes of corrupting a few of them to assist you in so bad a cause." Said General Grant: "Hold fast to the Bible as the sheet anchor of our liberties; write its precepts on your hearts and practice them in your lives. To the influence of this book we are indebted for the progress made in true civilization, and to this we must look as our guide in the future." And the world wept over the lamented Garfield as they never had before, because of his firm faith in the Bible as the Magna Charta of the nation and Christianity as our country's hope. We stand to-day as a people of about 50,000,000, with only a standing army of 25,000, such a thing has never been known of any other nation; and all nations are fast learning that they can settle their troubles without blood, that arbitration costs much less, and is more honorable; and may the day hasten when the "swords shall be beaten into plow shares and spears into

pruning hooks, and nations learn war no more." Our political chaldron has been bubbling for some time, but it is purifying itself, "spiritual wickedness was found in high places." We had placed bad men in office, but when the time came that we could place our hands on the crucible—the ballot box—then the work of purification could begin.

But there is another movement in our land for which we should render great thanks and give especial aid, that is the temperance reform. It was once like the prophet's cloud, not larger than a man's hand. It no longer hangs on the horizon, but is nearing the zenith and spreading and darkening from which the vivid lightnings flash, while the muttering thunder is threatening the doom of the liquor business. It is no longer a little ripple on our beach, but it is a tidal wave, sweeping over mountains and hills, through valleys and plains, and if you are not going to take a part in this great work, stand aside or you will be swept away by the onrushing tide. Some one has said, that "unless liquor drinking is checked our nation will be wrecked on the craggy rocks of debauchery, or sink in the whirlpool of Bacchanalian revelry, and our government be a legend of the past." There are many good things in store for us, as a nation, if we will dare to do right. Look at our land, her cheek is flushed with health, her step is elastic, and she moves with a queenly majesty as the Columbia of heaven. It is our lot to live in the grandest period of this world's history, and in this "sunny land of gold." Our country is in the enjoyment of great prosperity; she is at peace with the world; we have had abundant harvests with a large national surplus, besides when any other nation is in distress she reaches out her pitiful hand and wailing cries to noble and generous America; her mountains are still full of treasure. She is sending a colony to old Palestine, while her missionaries are found in every benighted clime. All of our institutions of learning and homes for the afflicted are well fostered, and while we express our thanks for all these blessings, let us confess our national sins and promise to do better in the future.

As citizens of this beautiful village you have much, very much for which to be thankful. Only a few months ago unbridled sin ran

loose in your streets, while your children without moral instruction of restraint ran in wildness through every alley and street on the Lord's day; but now you have two beautiful church edifices, two good Sunday schools, and the children all meet once, and many twice, on each Sunday to study the sacred Scriptures and sing songs of praise and thanksgiving to the Heavenly Father. And may I exhort you to more closely observe this Sunday law, for in the ratio of its observance will the moral standard of your town be elevated. A few dollars gained is not to be compared to the moral education of the young.

And, finally, may we so cherish and foster our country, by our love, gratitude, industry, and moral integrity, that it shall grow in internal purity and honor before the nations of the earth, that it will be one of the proudest thoughts of our lives to say, "Thank God I am an American." And may we say like the shining dollar that speaks with its silver tongue from your business stand, "In God we trust." And may we not only each year, but each day, be able to lift our eyes upward with joy and bare our foreheads for the blessings of heaven and the benedictions of angels and unite with the nation in singing that anthem of praise: "Happy is that nation whose God is the Lord."

Many a Christian trusts Christ to carry him through the valley of the shadow of death, who does not rely upon him to take him through the dread to-morrow. If you are Christ's you have no right to worry. He is a safe pilot. You can trust him in the shallow, quiet river as well as in the sea beyond.—*Alliance.*

It is a great deal better to lead a holy life than to talk about it. We are told to let our light shine, and if it does, we shall not need to tell anybody it does. The light will be its own witness.—*D. L. Moody.*

Coming to the Savior we need not fear to place our hand of faith in his hand of power, for he is able and willing to lead from darkness into the marvelous light of love and grace.—*Ex.*

To rejoice in another's prosperity is to give content to your own lot; to mitigate another's grief is to alleviate or dispel your own.—*T. Edwards.*