

the affairs of human life. His hopefulness must be granted an entrance into the souls of men. His manhood must be reproduced in our citizens, and the nation must wheel itself into line with the purposes of His coming kingdom of righteousness and peace and love . . .

“Do I properly magnify and represent the Christian church, this institution of God which announces the law of God, and which guards the day of God, and which labors to make the nation Christian? Is it the power in this land of ours which I have represented it to be? If so, then duty is plain, and there is no escape from duty. What is duty? It is duty to give the Republic Christian churches . . . When we have church bells everywhere, from Alaska to New Mexico, and from Maine to California, then we can challenge them to do their God-assigned work for the American Republic . . .”

## America For Christ

“In one of his glowing letters Paul the Hebrew writes to his fellow-countrymen, ‘Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.’

“These burning words introduce Paul as a citizen. They photograph him as he appears in a supreme patriotic moment, and the result is a magnificent personage—a Christian patriot. The camera of inspiration catches the picture just as an intense prayer leaps from his intense soul. Although the prayer is condensed into one brief sentence, yet it is a prayer of magnificent sweep. It seeks the grandest display of the glory of the true God and the greatest good of a whole nation . . .

“From Paul we wish to learn our duty to our country. We wish his patriotism to relive in us; we wish to bring before our souls the two objects which he brought before his soul,—Christ and Country,—that we may pray as he prayed. It is our privilege to see Christ as Paul saw Him; more than this, it is our privilege to look at the march of Christ through nineteen centuries. The centuries transfigure Him and give Him an added glory. They reveal Him as the mighty force in history. History reveals that the ruling nations of the age are the nations in which He is honored . . .

“As patriotic Christians there is only one cry in our souls, and that is, ‘America for Christ! Christ for America!’

“I mean to push this motto; I push it on three grounds: for America’s sake, for the world’s sake, for Christ’s sake.

“1. We demand America for Christ for America’s sake.

“We know what Christ does for an individual when he yields himself up to Him; He fills him with His own life and makes him one of the luminaries of the world . . . Now, what Christlessness and Christfulness are in the individual man, Christlessness and Christfulness are in the nation. A nation is only an aggregation of individual men. Christ deals with nations. In His sight nations are moral personalities.

They perform all the functions of a moral person, and He treats them according to their character. Divorce your nation from Christ and you ring its death-knell; you link its fate to the fate of Judas. Marry your nation to Christ and you open for it a door into a new future and secure for it a place among the nations of the world like that which Paul occupied among men. Tell me how the American Republic will treat Christ and I will tell you the future of the American Republic. Because the destiny of this nation depends upon its relation to Christ, I stand at the portals of the nation and as a loyal citizen cry, "Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lifted up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in." . . .

"As American patriots we should not allow ourselves to be blind to facts by a foolish optimism . . . With all our greatness, the God of nations could break us in pieces with a single stroke. Our only protection is loyalty to Christ. We must make our land and keep our land a gospel land. Whenever America becomes a Sahara of infidelity it will be as worthless as any other moral sand-heap. Whenever the citizens of our Republic allow the sirocco of atheism to sweep it, then, so far as I am concerned, farewell, Republic; whoever wishes may claim the old, withered, shriveled, blasted, lifeless thing which the sirocco leaves.

"But is our view on these matters the view universally held? No; men who have no practical interest in Christ and His religion ignore Him and His as factors in the upbuilding of nations. For example, an infidel science sees the elements of a nation's destiny solely in its physical environment . . . as if character were the product of outward circumstances . . .

"The majority of men attribute our greatness as a nation to our natural resources and to the width and richness of our land; the *Mayflower* and Plymouth Rock are ignored. But that is not the true explanation, and facts show it. The North American Indian possessed these natural and material resources ages and ages before our Pilgrim fathers set foot on this continent. There is not a river nor a mine nor a field that was not here when they owned the land. Why did not God unlock these natural resources to them? This is the reason: He kept them that He might give them to those who were in true relation with Himself. Our Pilgrim fathers came to these shores for His glory, and gave themselves to Him in the *Mayflower* covenant as a preparation for taking possession of the land. They were consecrated to His cause, and this is the reason He opened the treasures to them and to their children. My fellow-countrymen, it required the magic inspiration of spiritual life to transmute the natural resources of the United States into wealth. Our territory, every inch of it breadthwise and lengthwise, is in the hand of God, and He can lock up its mines, and stop the flow of its rivers of oil, and blight its more fertile soil . . .

"I wish, in treating this point that America needs Christ, that the nation should be taken for Christ for America's sake—I wish to hew close to the line of history and to build only with historical facts. History shows that the Christ-men and the Christ-women have always been the loyal men and women of the land, and the men and women who have inaugurated great and beneficial movements. Our national