

**THE WEEKLY DIRECTORY.**

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**SHALL AMERICA STAND OR FALL?**

A question often asked by the observant man who loves his nation. The answer depends not on a large army and navy, vast resources and material progress, education and culture. These are useful, but secondary, the body, not the soul of national life.

America's future depends upon patriotic sons, and statesmen who have a vision of her needs and possibilities. The patriot cheerfully gives love's best service and the statesman sees the unseen principles and forces essential to the life and perpetuity of the nation, not simply those peculiar to his community, nation or age. The unseen are the still, small voices of God. None but those who hear these voices are real patriots and statesmen on whom a nation's salvation depends. Missionary lovers, workers and leaders in missionary thought and activity are America's real patriots—the ten righteous men who save her from the disintegrating forces living upon her heart's blood.

There is a striking parallel between America and Israel. Each was born in a desire to serve God according to the still, small voice of conscience. Each from the beginning has been conscious of a religious mission. Each had its period of greatest development when its statesmen were men conscious of this mission. Each has a strategic position for a world mission.

The purpose of Israel's mission was stated in the divine call. "I will make thee a great nation and I will bless thee and make thy name great, and be thou a blessing \* \* \* and in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed." Gen. 12: 23. Its inspiring souls were great missionary spirits. The father of the nation was the first great missionary, the founder of the nation the first great missionary leader. Isaiah and the great prophets were missionary statesmen.

At the very beginning of national life, in the sacred ark was the golden candlestick, a perpetual reminder that the nation was to be a testimony—a witness-bearer for God to the world. To this end there were to be a "Kingdom of priests and a holy nation," sanctified for a specific purpose. The golden candlestick signified they were to be pure (holy, the first and essential preparation for missionary service). Their long, varied and severe training was designed to fit them nationally for true witnesses of the divine character. Their final rejection was because they failed to sanctify themselves and lost sight of their world obligation.

The voice of the prophet statesmen was always a call to realize this mission. To the question in what sense were they the chosen people of God, Isaiah answered: "Your greatness consists not in what you possess, nor in your character, but in the fact that you have been selected to represent Jehovah before the world and to be witnesses. To that end you have been carefully educated. You are chosen, therefore, to give, not to receive." "Ye are my witnesses, saith Jehovah, and my servant whom I have chosen. I, Jehovah, have called thee in righteousness. I will hold thy hand and will keep thee and give thee for a covenant of the people and for a light of the Gentiles," Isa. 42: 6.

Zechariah emphasizes the same two-fold truth. "As ye were a curse among the nations, so I will save you and ye shall be a blessing. Fear God, but let your hand be strong, out of all the languages of the nations they shall take hold of the skirt of him that is called a Jew, saying we will go with you, for we have heard that God is with you." Zech. 8: 13, 23.

Israel was providentially located for such a mission, lying between the world powers of the Euphrates Valley and Egypt, and along the great trade lines of the world running north and south, east and west through her borders. What was best in her could easily find its way to all parts of the civilized world.

America is the Abraham of the nations. God's blessings upon her have been unbounded. Their continuance and increase are conditional. We must be a blessing. In her all nations of the earth must be blessed. Forgetting this brought upon Israel plague and pollution, anarchy and captivity and finally national annihilation.

Jehovah's laws of national perpetuity have not changed. America must be a holy nation and a world missionary or go the way of all nations that have forgotten God and their duty to humanity.

God has increased the responsibility by the central strategic position He has given her. Her isolation, extent of territory and resources give her the opportunity for greater development for service than Palestine. She is a world power. Palestine was a small kingdom. Mighty oceans connect her with the isles of the sea and the civilizations of the world. Across her flows the trade of the world, the East and the West, the North and the South. The best in her can soon reach all nations, with the righteousness that protects her from any corrupting influences, her Christian ideals will leaven the world.

Failure to be a missionary at home, failure to do mission service for the world, is not only failure to fulfil the great command, but is unpatriotic, unstatesmanlike, treachery to the land we love and suicide to the Israel of the nations. J. U. Newman.

**THE DANGER OF GOING BARE-FOOTED.**

As the season is now approaching when all children desire to go barefooted, it is well that they should be warned that this pleasure does not come without danger. Until recent years we attached little importance to ground-itch, or toe-itch, so commonly seen among barefooted children who go about in the dew or other damp places. We now know that ground-itch is the initial symptom of hookworm disease and that it would not develop unless the soil had been polluted by sufferers from the disease. The myriads of eggs passing daily along with the excreta

from their bodies develop into tiny microscopic worms too small to be seen. These, when allowed to come in contact with the skin, burrow through producing an attack of ground itch. The truth of this assertion can be easily proved by making a poultice of polluted soil and applying it for a few hours to some part of the body. Always at the site of such a poultice there develops the ground-itch rash if there be a sufficient number of worms entering the skin.

Moreover, it is known that about fifty days after the attack of ground-itch the little worms that entered the skin will have found their way to the small intestine and there developed to a size sufficient for them to be seen with the naked eye. They are nearly one-half inch in length. The medicine given to get rid of them, by acting as a poison, causes them to be expelled from the body. By washing the stools through cheese cloth they may be collected.

The harm they produce is now well recognized to require discussion at this time. Suffices it to say that the blood is sapped, the body stunted, the vitality lowered. Thus, the life and happiness of those dearest to us may be blasted. It is now time every one should know what is meant by ground itch, hook worm disease, polluted soil, and poor sanitary arrangements. Your State Board of Health will be glad to supply this information free to anyone who will ask for it.—State Board of Health.

—Hungry Hank, to small boy engaged with pie—Let's take yer pie, sonny, en' I'll show you how I can balance a straw en' eat pie at de same time.

—"Can you give my constituent here a job on your railroad?" asked the state senator.

"But he can't talk English."

"Well, give him a job calling trains."

—"Have you been married, Bridget?"

"Twicet, mum."

"And have you any children?"

"Yis, mum, I've three. One be the third wife av me second husband an' two be the second wife av me first."—Cleveland Leader.

—Huber—Alas, my dear friend, the worse for drink again. Why on earth do you drink so much?

Huber—Because I'm so unhappy.

Luber—Why are you so unhappy?

Huber—Because I drink so much.—Fliegende Blaetter.

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