

home, has its special interest and value in the fact that it brings together, so far as this is possible, the scattered members of each household, strengthening the ties of natural affection in those who meet about the old fireside and calling forth simultaneously kindly thoughts in the breasts of the friends who are widely separated in space but not in heart. But no true affection is narrow and selfish; "thanks-living," as an old writer puts it, "is akin to thanks-giving," and so the spirit of Christmas, of "goodwill to men," has entered into our November holiday also, and manifests itself in helping the poor, the orphan, the friendless one, for the heart expanded by the same love and the thoughts of home friends grows tender in its thought of the homeless.

As the two holidays just named are related to morals through the religious and the home life, so is the remaining class related to patriotism through the national life, commemorating now the birthday of the nation or of him whom we recognize as the father of our country, now the death of those who freely gave their lives "that the government of the people, for the people, and by the people should not perish from the earth." If the contemplation of worthy lives, of great occasions and of noble actions tends to exalt us and fit us not only to comprehend but in some degree to emulate what is so far above our common life, no friend of liberty would take away even one from this glorious trio of patriotic festivals, so well adapted to develop a pure and lofty love of country.

That we may value our festivals aright, let us glance at those of some other countries. In England, the great holiday is neither patriotic nor moral. Parliament adjourns or sits without a quorum, shopkeepers close their shops, and London empties itself every May, on the Wednesday following Trinity Sunday, to visit Epsom Downs and there see the racing for the "Derby" stakes which are worth as much as \$30,000. Now that May-day and its may-poles are wholly things of the past and that Christmas, the civilized form of

our barbarian ancestors' Yule-feast, has lost its social prominence in England and is scarcely more regarded than in the time of the Puritans, our mother country—having neither Fourth of July nor Thanksgiving—has only that glorification of betting and horse-racing known as "Derby day."

If we look across the Channel, we find in France the Celtic equivalent of our July 4th, 1776, to be July 14th, 1789, the day on which the mob of Paris captured the old fortress-prison which had for centuries enclosed as in a living tomb the victims of every form of tyranny, political, personal or ecclesiastical, and which thus symbolized all despotic misrule. But while July 14th, Bastille day, has thus an origin similar to that of July 4th, Independence day, the anniversary of the former is not celebrated by all good citizens but rather has fallen into the hands of the mob and the Commune, whose leaders use it as an occasion for declaiming against rightful authority and for glorifying mob rule and anarchy.

In view of these facts, we cannot envy other nations their festivals, for we would not wish either to exchange for or to adopt any that they have. We would rather, realizing that a nation needs every stimulus to patriotism and that the worth of the national life depends on the depth of the religious life and the purity of the home life, seek to value more intelligently and use more wisely those which already are ours. As good citizens then we should all recognize the meaning and the helpfulness of Feb. 22, May 30th and July 4th, which remind us of the valiant deeds, the noble lives and the glorious deaths of our country's heroes, and we should also, as good citizens, consider well the worth to our nation of that last Thursday of November which bids us thrust aside all angry feelings and strengthens our hold on our Saxon heritage of a pure home-life by bringing us around the old hearth-stone, there to reunite the broken family and weld heart to heart more firmly than before, and we should es-