

July

4

Tuesday

INDEPENDENCE DAY

**RIGHTEOUSNESS EXALTETH A NATION**

Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people. Prov. 14:34.

What a change has occurred since the Liberty Bell rang out its joyful news! Our nation then consisted of thirteen colonies along the Atlantic seaboard, small in population and weak in resources, great only in the possession of an invincible faith in Almighty God.

Less than two centuries have passed, and that little group of colonies has grown into the mightiest nation the world has ever seen. God has wonderfully blessed. In comparison with the people of most other countries, the average American lives a life of royal splendor and luxury.

Why has God so richly blessed our people? It is because of their attitude toward Him. Our first settlers came to seek a land where God's Word and God's will would be first in everything. Multitudes of others with similar aims followed them to these shores. Christian principles were built into the very framework of the nation.

As a result of an attitude of dependence on God we have been enabled to declare and maintain independence of all earthly dictators and tyrants. Our history gives convincing evidence of the truth of the statement that "righteousness exalteth a nation."

It is fitting that we remember the goodness of the founders of our nation. Yet it might be well that we pause a moment on this Independence Day to ask ourselves this question: What are we doing to keep our nation on the path on which they placed it? Their righteousness has brought us to our present greatness. Will our nation remain true to God and continue to receive His blessing, or may we, by our forgetfulness of Him, deserve and suffer a withdrawal of the favor He has shown us?

—Dr. A. A. MacRae, Wilmington, Del.