

honesty of belief in absurdities, but we cannot believe in witches because our forefathers and mothers did; and still less can we consent to execute persons for supposed witchcrafts or hang Quakers for their belief. There were a great many superstitious whims and absurdities, in which people formerly believed, that have faded from the popular mind of to-day. A blind and stupid devotion to the opinions and declarations of men, without regard to sense or reasons merely because they were the utterances of olden time, is an impediment to moral, social and political progression. We must judge of men and things by our own standards of judgment, commending whatever we conceive to be good and practicable, and rejecting the bad. Men of olden time were no more oracular than they are now. There is a rational, practical medium of thought and action between a devoted reverence for men and things of old, and the wild and visionary thoughts and speculations about the future. The medium we occupy to-day, and it is in the ever-living present, with all its cares, duties, obligations and responsibilities resting upon us, that we realize this, especially the younger portion of my readers. Do we feel prepared to continue on the second hundred years of our national life with a renewed devotion to the great and fundamental principles upon which our government and its free institutions rest? The great blessings and the sacred trusts that have come to us through the toils, struggles and sacrifices of those who preceded us, it is our right and privilege rationally to enjoy. But let us not forget that the obligation rests upon us to transmit the same, unimpaired by us, to those who may come after us. Let us be reasonably exercised by a modest pride for the greatness of our national domain, its great and diversified interests and re-