

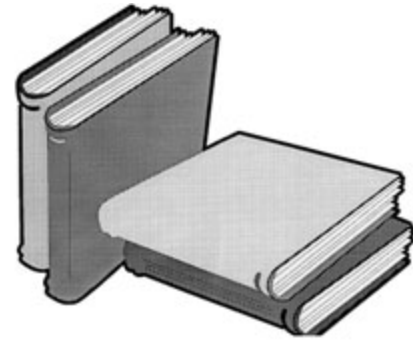
The Rock and Pit

*Look unto the rock whence ye are hewn,
and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged.*

Isa 51:1

Selections from the Christian's heritage in print,

collected by Dean Brown



Special Issue for Election Season, October 27, 2019.

July 4, 1806, Portland Maine.

The vessel of our republic, driven by the gales of faction, and hurried still faster by the secret current of luxury and vice, is following the same course ... which has proved fatal to so many before us. ...

Virtue ... is absolutely essential to the existence of republics. ... Whether we retain a sufficient share of this virtue to promise ourselves a long duration, you, my friends, must decide. But, should the period ever arrive ... **when ignorance and vice** pervade the country; **when the press shall become** the common sewer of falsehood and slander; ... when **the chief seats of honor and responsibility in our government** shall be filled by characters of whom the most malicious ingenuity can **invent nothing worse than the truth**; when we see **the members of our national councils**, in defiance of the laws of God and their country, throwing away their lives in defence of reputations, which if they ever existed, had long been lost; when **the slanderers of Washington and the blasphemers of our God** shall be thought useful laborers in our political vineyard, ... sacrificing their ... consciences at the altar of party; **then we may say**, that virtue has departed, and that the end of our liberty draweth nigh.

Let us be careful, my friends, to engage in this struggle in a manner ... worthy of the cause we profess to support. Why should we disgrace that and ourselves by contending for the most important interests of our country in language fit only for a tenant of [a fish market] disputing about a shrimp or an oyster?

It ought never to be forgotten that, except in some few instances ..., it is not men but principles we are to attack.

Edward Payson, the "Praying Payson of Portland",
featured in the *Behold Your God* video class last spring.
He was then Portland's 23 year old schoolmaster,
giving the invited address.