

# A Pageant for Empire Day

## THE BUILDING OF THE EMPIRE

*Dramatic Club, Normal College, Truro*

### CHARACTERS:

BRITANNIA, ENGLAND, WALES,  
SCOTLAND, IRELAND & CROM-  
WELL.  
NEWFOUNDLAND, CANADA, INDIA,  
AUSTRALASIA (i. e. AUSTRALIA  
NEW ZEALAND & TASMANIA).  
SOUTH AFRICA AND LORD ROBERTS  
DEPENDENCIES & ISLANDS OF  
SEA.

Each country is represented by a child dressed in the costume of that country; or else in a simple white dress, with name of the country on a banner across the breast, and carrying the flag of the country. The "Dependencies and Islands of the Sea" may be one child, or a group if the school is sufficiently large, and the platform accommodation will permit. The Choruses are to be sung by the children not taking an active part. For best results they may be placed immediately in front of the stage, or at the sides. -A large Union Jack stretched across the back of the wall would make an appropriate background.

Britannia, with helmet and shield, leaning on her trident, sits enthroned (put a chair on a table and drape with a flag) in the centre background. As the various countries enter they take their places in a semi-circle—England standing directly in front of Britannia, while the others build slowly outward on either side. When finished, the picture presented should be: Central group, The United Kingdom. To the right (naming in order from the centre), separated by short distances and kneeling, Canada, Newfoundland and India, with "Islands of the Sea" standing in the background between the last two named. Similarly on the left, are Australasia, and South Africa.

Cromwell and Lord Roberts, who lead in Ireland and South Africa respectively, retire from the stage when, after speaking, the latter countries take their places. All speakers address the enthroned Britannia, who graciously recognizes them, but does not speak.

The curtain rises, disclosing Britannia on throne, while one verse of "Rule Britannia" is sung by the Chorus. England enters during the chorus, and takes her stand on a raised platform in front of Britannia. At the end of the Chorus,

*Wales enters from left addressing Britannia:*

"You have given me a Prince, and now I come to pay homage to him, and to pledge my fealty to you."  
(Bends knee, then takes place kneeling at the feet of England.)

*Scotland enters from right and says:*

"From moorland and glen comes the sons of old Scotland,  
As sturdy, as loyal, as staunch as her hills.  
From 1603, when we gave to the English  
Our King, James I., have our destinies entwined.  
The church and the state were the rivals for power;

Too often, Empire Day programs recount British conquests on battlefields. May we not suggest a program depicting her progress in the arts of peace? The material growth of the Empire and her present industrial and commercial standing will furnish a very pleasing and instructive historical program.

Every good lesson requires action. Children like to do things. An array of flags makes an attractive picture. All these can be attained by rendering the program in pageant form. The following pageant has been hastily prepared by the Dramatic Club of the Truro Normal College, under the direction of Miss Dora Baker.

L. A. DeWolfe.

The struggle was long, but the victory was sure.

In 1707 was the union effected  
'Twixt the Cross of St. Andrew  
and the Cross of St. George.

Hark! 'Tis my pibroch, sounding,  
sounding,  
High o'er the moorland, and shrill  
in the glen.  
Stand we by England, as brother  
by brother,  
One land, now Great Britain, re-  
vered by all men.

(Takes place beside England while bagpipes play short martial airs—or a phonograph behind scenes plays a medley of Scotch pipe music.)

*Enter from left Cromwell, leading Ireland, whose hands are bound:*

*Crom.:*

"Lo! Here the conquered Celt is brought  
Tho all untamed his spirit is.  
The years to come, with peril fraught,  
Will prove, we trust, his loyalty."

*Ireland frees hands and says:*

"In battles oft I've proved it since,  
Despite hasty words in times of peace.  
Tho we to England gave no prince,  
Her every son will Erin give."  
(Cromwell retires, Ireland takes her stand beside England.)

Chorus sings: "Hurrah for the Red, White and Blue."

*Enter from the right, Newfoundland, and says:*

"I am a loyal subject brought by John Cabot. Some call me 'the Ancient Colony' because I was the first of your overseas daughters."  
(Kneels in her place.)

*Enter, also from the right, Canada, who says:*

"Mine is the land of the maple and beaver,  
Of boundless prairies which our mountains divide.  
With minerals, fish, and resources unending  
Ours is a future you may well view with pride.  
The spirit of Norsemen, Columbus, and Cartier,  
Of Frontenac, Champlain, Montcalm, and Wolfe,  
Animates their descendants, and gave to this coun-  
try  
Sir John A. McDonald, Charles Tupper, and  
Howe.