

from the most primitive times this has been the universal characteristic among all races of men, civilized or uncivilized.

We can turn to the Volume of the Sacred Law, and in the Book of Numbers, chapter 2, verse 2, read: "Every man of the children of Israel shall pitch by his own standard with the ensign of his father's house."

There are the Assyrian "Twin Bull," the Roman Imperial Eagle, the Golden Eagle of the French, the Black Eagle of Prussia, and the White Eagle of Austria and Russia, all indicative of imperial might, which were set over the conquered. Then there is our old emblem, so lately planted at Omdurman, Fashoda and South Africa, indicative not only of might, but of security in life to a down-trodden race and the guaranty of a Christian civilization—"The Union Jack."

As nationalities have been created, the emblem of their subjugation has become the emblem of their power; and so the cross which was the emblem of the degradation of our blessed Saviour, has become the one great ensign and glory of the nations subjected to the sway of Christianity.

Even the red Indian when found upon the shores of North America, could produce to the discoverer the "Totem" of his family, attesting the history of his family and their deeds of valor in battle. In man it is instinctive to attach a national meaning to an emblem, and display or follow it as an evidence of his patriotic fervor. Plant the standard and around it will flock the clans and followers, absorbing the individual in one mighty army, thrilled to the very heart's core, with the battle cry of bagpipes, fife and drum, or the martial music of the band. The flag itself is nothing save a bit of cloth, but in significance it is everything. When uplifted it concentrates in itself the annals and traditions of our empire; it is the incarnation of the intensest sentiment. The national flag is the emblem—the visible and universally recognized bond of union—of a people as a whole, superior to and irrespective of all racial, religious or sectional distinctions. It symbolizes the life of a nation and its absolute unity.