

eratic claim of the Papaey, to the forces of feudalism in both Germany and Italy; to the ambition of the Italian towns and to the vast mountain barrier of the Alps. The Spanish Empire failed because it rested upon stupid, jarring and inveterate habits of meddling and an insane disregard of finance. The Napoleonic Empire failed because Europe would not submit to the will of a single man. The British Commonwealth, on the other hand, represents a practical project which draws its strength from the instinct of freedom, from the devoted attachment of its members to the British tradition, from the respect which each of the partners feels for its associates, and from the mutual confidence which has been so lately strengthened by the great War.

"There are in every community bears as well as wolves; cheerful pessimists as well as chastened optimists. But however valuable free indispensable criticism may be, we live at a time when our relations to the other members of the British Empire should be approached in a constructive spirit. I have quoted twice from Burke; let me conclude by referring to a passage from Milton, which is equally famous and equally appropriate:

"'Methinks I see in my mind a noble and puissant nation rousing herself like a strong man after sleep, and shaking her invincible locks. Methinks I see her as an eagle mewing her mighty youth, and kindling her undazzled eyes at the full mid-day beam; purging and unsealing her long-abused sight at the fountain itself of heavenly radiance; while the whole noise of timorous and flocking birds, with those also that love the twilight, fluttering about, amazed at what she means, in their envious gabble would prognosticate a year of sects and schisms.'"

"This is not a time for multiplying either sects schisms, but rather for drawing inspiration from the British tradition at its best, as one of the great forces in the world—a force well tested and not found wanting, a force which makes for freedom, fair play and justice. To say that an object is unattainable is often to confess one's poverty of soul. For the greatness of every age is to be measured by what it succeeds in redeeming from the void of the uninhabitable, from the void of what to the faint-hearted seems uninhabitable. And in working for the greatness, glory and continuity of the British Commonwealth we are helping to honor by a fitting memorial its sons and our brothers who have ungrudgingly given their lives on its behalf in this war. So that should be our thought at all times—at first and at the last. The better world which is to be created by this war will not belong to us who may hope to enjoy it, but to our heroes who have given their lives for it."