

Principles are eternal, but their application eternally varies. I have shown you the Roman Empire, followed by feudal Europe and then by Monarchical Europe, and now we have entered into a new era, the era of Democracy. We cannot hope that Democracy will be free from those errors, faults and vices which are the lot of human nature, but it seems to me that there are in Democracies certain vices such as corruption, envy and jealousy, against which we must always guard. It also seems to me that we have every reason to expect that Democratic Institutions, which mean the emancipation of long suffering masses, will be more and more impregnated with those generous impulses to which the martyred President gave unequalled expression. Indeed, the force of democratic institutions has been well illustrated in the marvellous manner in which the American Republic emerged from the Civil War. Not a drop of blood was shed by the Civil Power, not a man was put upon trial for his participation in the rebellion; malice there was to none; charity there was for all, and the result is that to-day, notwithstanding the terrible cleavage caused by that Civil War which raged for four years—the most stupendous civil struggle that ever tore the bosom of any Nation—all traces of the conflict have disappeared and the Nation is united as it never was before. This, Ladies and Gentlemen, is a great and most glorious triumph, but I think that we, British subjects, can lay claim and can show a still more phenomenal triumph. It is only ten years ago this month that on the veldt of South Africa, Dutch and British met in mortal combat. It was not, as in the American Civil War, a conflict of men of the same kith and kin in which the possibility of reconciliation was made more easy on account of the same blood flowing in the veins of the combatants, and where hands were impelled to join by the thousand memories of a common history. No! on the veldt of South Africa, conflict was between men of alien races, embittered by the stinging recollection of recent humiliations inflicted on each other. But such was the faith of those who believe in the British Constitution that, if I may be permitted to speak of myself, during a debate which took place in the House when