

ADDRESS TO LODGE DUDLEY, S.O.E.

MY BRETHREN, THE SONS OF ENGLAND:

THE British connexion is worth preserving at any cost, if it were merely for the honour of being an Englishman; but, besides the honour, there are countless advantages of a most profitable nature arising out of the connexion.

We need not stop to enumerate them; but, speaking generally, we may say that "the flag that has braved a thousand years the battle and the breeze" protects the very meanest of the sons of England, wherever they may be and whatever their oppression. The ends of the earth—the whole earth—some portions of it by a bitter experience—know well that an injury or dishonour done to the son is felt by the mother, and that it is no sooner felt by her than the roar of the Lion of England terrifies the offending nation into justice to her children, with ample compensation. Justice and reparation denied, or even retarded, the wide and rapid streams of England's wealth quickly convey her armour-clads and warriors even to the world's end to avenge, perhaps to snatch her sons from the grasp of the oppressor; and its Magdalas, not easily approached or forced, lie in ruins, while her rescued ones are borne home in triumph on her victorious shield.

It may cost a mint or two of money and many lives to release a humble son of England from shame or harm; but has England ever been known to cut off the flow of gold, or of lives, till her sons were safe? Nor gold, nor blood, has ever weighed so much in the balance of Old England as the honour or safety of an Englishman. An Englishman sinking under oppression may have but a