

affairs. [Cheers.] On either hand I see the gentlemen who control and animate the press, whose laborious vigils mould public sentiment — whose honourable ambition I can estimate from my early connection with the profession. On those benches, Sir, or I mistake the intelligence to be read in their faces, sit those who will yet be Governors and Ministers of State. I may well feel awed in presence of an audience such as this; but the great question which brings us together is worthy of the audience and challenges their grave consideration.

What is that question? Sir, we are here to determine how best we can draw together, in the bonds of peace, friendship, and commercial prosperity, the three branches of the British family. [Cheers.] In the presence of this great theme all petty interests should stand rebuked—we are not dealing with the concerns of a City, a Province, or a State, but with the future of our race in all time to come. Some reference has been made to “Elevators” in your discussions. What we want is an elevator to lift our souls to the height of this great argument. Why should not these three branches of the family flourish, under different systems of government, it may be, but forming one grand whole, proud of a common origin and of their advanced civilization? We are taught to reverence the mystery of the Trinity, and our salvation depends on our belief. The clover lifts its trefoil leaves to the evening