

the least is that she has so raised the standard and dignity of the kingly life that we cannot conceive the possibility of any backsliding towards the selfishness of the Restoration or the Regency. She has achieved, we believe once for all, the great work of founding a tradition of the English Crown more loyal even than the tradition of the English people. To do this was to be a queen indeed, and the greatest of conquerors, for vast as was the material increase of her Empire, she extended in a still more wonderful manner the dominion of the ideas and emotions which gathered about her. The inter-action of her own feeling and that of her people concerning the duty and destiny of the English race kindled into flame the passion which will henceforth answer to the name of loyalty. It is new rather in degree than in kind, but it is none the less a noble and permanent part of national life. It has nothing to do with caste or the worship of rank, little with self-interest; reverence is part of it; but beyond this it is sympathy in a great cause, a right pride, a splendid hope. It can be said of the English as it can be said of no other nation in history, that they have been for eleven centuries, and are to-day more than ever, a society in the true sense of the term, a society with a personality of its own; and the development of that personality with all its faults and set-backs has been, on the whole, and is to-day more than ever, making for the happiness of mankind. Freedom of faith, freedom of speech, freedom of trade, equality of race, of law, and of opportunity: outside the *Civitas Britannica* these are to be found less commonly and less completely: all together they exist nowhere else. So long as we preserve these and continue to develop the masculine gentleness from which they spring as from a natural soil, we shall still be able to say in face of all our detractors, within and without, that when the sun sets upon our Empire the night will be black indeed.

Of all her contemporaries none had a clearer or loftier view of the position of England in the world than Queen Victoria. Probably we are not even yet aware of the extent to which our