

THE EMPIRE AND THE COLONIES.

scene of splendor and decorations it would be impossible to describe. "The human interest of the occasion," adds the Boston Herald, "dominated its every other aspect. To see two thousand six hundred people at dinner was a sight in itself." As a fact, 2,700 people sat down to dinner. The banquet was presided over by Mr. George B. Perry, the president of the Victoria Diamond Jubilee Festival Association, to his right and left being His Excellency Roger Wolcott, Governor of Massachusetts, Sir Dominie E. Colnaghi, consul general of Boston, Nicholas Flood Davin, Q. C., M. P.; Vice Consul W. H. Stuart, His Honor Mayor Quincy, the Hon. Winslow Warren, the collector of the port of Boston; Captain Humpage, of Her Majesty's ship Pallas, and a number of distinguished persons, military and clerical. Among the ladies were Lady Colnaghi, Mrs. Wilcock, Mrs. Davin, Mrs. J. T. Baker, etc.

The usual toasts, the "President," the "Queen," the "Commonwealth," and the "Army and Navy" having been duly honored Gen. Curtis Guild, the toast master, proposed "The Empire and the Colonies," coupled with the name of Nicholas Flood Davin, who represented Canada (cheers.)

Mr. Davin—Your Excellency, Mr. President. Ladies and Gentlemen—On behalf of Canada which the Diamond Jubilee Festival Association has done me the honor to ask me to represent and on behalf of the Empire and the Colonies for which I speak, I thank you for this reception. I hope I shall be excused a little criticism of the toast to which I have the honor to respond—"the Empire and the Colonies"—Why, the colonies are the Empire. (Cheers) As a colonist, as a Canadian, having met this afternoon many of those who are now seated down those long and numerous tables, and learned how deep their interest is in the great premier colony, the great Confederation whence I come, as an Imperial Federationist

I am forward to assert that the colonies are the empire and that it is by colonists that Empire has been built up. (Renewed cheering). It will be obvious that whatever time, relying on your forbearance, I may presume to take, yet having regard to the subject, my speech will be brief; that therefore my mood must be one of appreciation not criticism—nay, must it not be one of enthusiasm? Nay, more, could any man realizing truthfully the facts of the present and the past, let him be in what critical mood he might or will, feel other than enthusiastic? The critic and the historian, indeed, when he comes to deal with the sixty years whose teeming incidents our minds survey will have qualifications and reservations to make, which, even if present to us, it would be improper here and now to obtrude. Nobody need suppose that I hold that all things which should have been done, have been done, or that some things which have been done would have been better not left undone. I do not therefore invite your attention to an historical disquisition. I ask your attention while in a few words I touch on what is true and vital and unquestionable in the light of this epic moment which challenges not our attention merely but the attention of civilized mankind. (Cheers.) I know that in Boston, as all over the United States, there are British born subjects who stand aside from the British empire, but they have no logical or historical ground for this, because the Empire which is an actuality is of comparatively recent date has been built up by and is composed of Irishmen as well as Englishmen and Scotchmen—all three have fought and thought and bled the world over in extending and building and blending—weaving the wonderful web-raising that wonderful thing—without prototype or parallel—the British Empire. (Cheers.)

But, Sir, there are thronging memories which point to beckoning associations and thrilling suggestions. From this great theme of Empire I must for one moment turn aside.

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