

count for little were it not for the other all-important fact that every portion of her broad dominions enjoys to the fullest extent, and evenly with every other portion, those forms of government and methods of administration which have long been the envy and admiration of the other nations of the world.

England has best solved the problem of just government. British history is a long struggle for what is just and right, and in no chapter of her history is that fact made more apparent than in the one just about to be closed—that written in scarlet letters on the battlefields of South Africa. The growth and security of the liberty of the individual, the possession by all of an equality of rights, this is England's magnificent contribution to the problem of just government. That she has thus far best solved this problem is shown by the fact that the most progressive nations the world over have practically adopted her forms of government, her methods of administration. That which she so happily accomplished in the case of Egypt in recent years, as to its finances and as to the condition of the people, will be repeated in South Africa. But, Mr. Chairman, my toast reminds us not only of the greatness of the Empire to which we are proud to belong, it also refers to its defenders. All through history the valor and heroism of British troops have been matters of special comment. Lord Macaulay, in words that burn, speaks of the undaunted bravery of her soldiers in the days of Wellington, and to-day Kipling sings in like strains of the defenders of the Empire at the present moment. In the days of Wellington the defenders of the Empire, those who bore the brunt of the fight, belonged almost solely to what we call the Motherland.

In her gigantic struggle of to-day, for the first time in her history, marching side by side with her own regular regiments, we have seen regiments from the colonies—from Canada and Australia—volunteers travelling thousands of miles to risk their lives for Queen and Empire, truly a most memorable historical incident, striking and unique, illustrating as nothing else could the unity and solidarity of our world-wide Empire. From each corner of the Empire, when the war-note first sounded, spontaneously the earnest cry came, "We insist on sharing the common burden in repelling the common foe." The tributes which have reached us almost daily to the valor of our troops tend further and further to strengthen the ties that bind us to the Empire. Round the same camp-fires in South Africa for some months past