

tainly treat us with generosity ; not always indeed with even common justice. But what of that ? Let us not imitate the evil example of Germany ; let us simply pursue the even tenor of our way, minding our own business, guarding our own interests, performing our own national and international duties, doing justice and fearing no man.

Coming next to the consideration of our imperial patriotism, I ask what is the besetting sin that is in danger of overtaking us in this connection ? Let Rudyard Kipling, who has been in many respects, the greatest of all sinners in this kind, furnish the answer to the question. In our pride and arrogance, as the citizens and subjects of a great and dominating power, we are in danger of forgetting, and perhaps of trespassing upon the rights of other less favored and less powerful peoples. Not all the wars of England have been just or righteous wars. Taken as a whole, the history of England is the history of a righteous and beneficent power, and the British Empire may justly be called in the language of Lord Rosebery, the greatest secular agency for good that the world has ever seen. But there are blots on its record, and it is for us as patriots, to profit by past experience, to avoid the errors of the past and atone for its sins ; and as to the future to endeavor as a people and as a power to strive after those things only which are pure and lovely and of good report. We have been so continuously engaged throughout our national history in a persistent and strenuous and successful struggle for the maintenance of our rights against invasion or encroachment, that it has become a sort of second nature to us to think primarily, and perhaps too exclusively, of our rights. The time has come when we may safely think less about our rights and more about our duties. If we would all of us practice this lesson, the problems of our modern civilization would speedily find a happy solution. The struggle of capital and labor, the problem of poverty, the scourges of epidemic disease, and all the many evils that menace our civilization, would find their ready solvents and remedies in this manner of treatment, and the world would be a happier and better place to live in.

Nobody can participate in such a celebration as this centennial without his heart, in the stirring words of Wesley, being