

in our race that will make humanity safe under its guidance? Is it well that we should have this power at which you appear to aim? Have we proved ourselves so humane—so forbearing—so unselfish—so Christian-minded, that we, any more than any other nation, can be trusted to use this power to advance that which is true, or just, or right? Well, to this remark I can make but one reply. Our success in the future—nay, not merely our success, our safety—so great are our responsibilities,—our existence depends upon the fulfilment of our duty—not its perfect fulfilment, that is beyond our reach, but on such fulfilment as is possible. And we shall not fulfil our duty if we attempt to avoid, or escape, or disown the responsibilities of our position. There are two conditions of this position which I must ask you to bear in mind. If I leave you any more impressed with them than I found you, my object will have been gained.

One of these conditions we share with other civilised nations. The other applies especially to ourselves. If there be one fact more evident than another in that page of the story of humanity that is now being written, it is the strength of what we may call the national force—the tendency—the longing of men speaking one tongue, and having a common ancestry, to bind themselves together in a common nationality. But remember that, with the exception of ourselves, this tendency is making itself felt in the creation and maintenance of enormous standing armies. It would appear as though the nations of Europe suppose that they can only hold themselves from disruption by being armed camps.

Now, turn to the other fact, peculiar to ourselves. Our islands are so well situated for colonising; their inhabitants are so industrious, so persevering, so possessed with energy, so imbued with freedom, so gifted, in a word, with the colonising faculty, that we have encircled the earth by the free and orderly communities we have founded. Remember also that, if these communities remain united, they are so strong in their inherited courage, and are so quickly increasing