

## THE UNION OF TWO GREAT PEOPLES.

died shall not have died in vain and to reassert our purpose to finish this task even if it exhaust the vast resources and take all the valiant lives of the Allies in Europe and of the Republic across the seas. (Cheers.) For what would the future of the human race be worth if the deliberate and calculated barbarism of our enemies overran the world? The supreme gift of free government which this brave island gave to the earth, and to which all free lands chiefly owe their freedom, would be swept away. We do not need to review these terrible three years. Everyone of us is constantly doing that whether we would or not. For the war has shut most preceding experiences and memories of normal and joyful tasks out of our memories, but there are several facts that we may profitably recall.

The chief fact is that the war was thrust upon us. Not only did the Allied countries not begin it; they did everything to prevent it. Documentary proof of this is abundant and has so often and clearly been stated that I shall not weary you with another recital of it. Another fact is the persistent denial by German public men and soldiers that the war was of their making. That is important not only as a measure of their moral accuracy, but as an indication of their method of retreat. They will appeal to the pity of the world they set out to subdue. (Cheers.) It is particularly proper for us on this tragic anniversary to ponder on these large facts while we strengthen our resolve. After the war is over and we can look back calmly on these years they will, I imagine, stand out in our memory as a horrible nightmare in certain moods, and in certain other moods as a time of the heroic cleansing of the earth of an ancient and deadly malady. (Cheers.) Military despotisms have ever been one of the greatest evils of human society; and we have now learnt that under modern physical progress they are become far more dangerous as well as far more loathsome than in simpler times.