

single step, and with this further exception, that the seat of national government will always remain in Australia, although the republic is destined to spread over the greater part of Oceanica.

Following closely the steps of Australia we may look to see South Africa, when, in due course of the development of her political institutions, her time of sovereignty shall come. She will have room in abundance and resources equal to any rational dreams of extension.

But how will it fare with the dear old Mother at home, after her children, all grown to manhood, shall have started in life for themselves? Will her glory or her fortune be dimmed, or her natural force abated? Confidently may go forth the answer: She will be no whit the less active, or happy, or flourishing. That practical sagacity which has never failed her at a crisis (except in that one, unhappy moment when she lost America) will teach her when and how to win and hold to her side (just as Canada and Australia have in part won and held for her) the masses of that generous but emotional people who have not yet been permitted to learn that Anglo-Saxon energy and shrewdness have their counterparts in Anglo-Saxon justice and generosity. And when law and government in Ireland shall have been established upon the only true foundations, so that equity and reason are satisfied, folly and iniquity may vainly dash their heads against the rocks, and England will have made a conquest at her very door worth to her far more than that boasted Indian empire whose teeming population is, in the mass, as little touched by European habit and thought as when Clive first gave life and impulse to that vast network of bureaucracy and officialism which passes at home for the genuine spread and penetration of civilization.

Next in importance to the work of a real pacification of Ireland (which, for better or worse, is joined politically to England by an inexorable law of nature) is the pursuit and enlargement of the great scheme of universal education so happily begun but a few years ago: for it is in the quality rather than the size of a population that strength and safety lie, and with nations, as with individuals, happiness is more to be desired than acquisition.

Closely connected with the question of education is that of religion; for what would be the gain in exchanging dullards and sots for voluptuaries and sharpers? Religion, then, must be set