

and more than all, that they can ever think or feel—can express all that the mind of man can conceive. Strains there are in this our native tongue, “Storied of old in high immortal verse,” which might “create a soul under the ribs of death.” And whenever one comes before us now, whose gifts place the resources of that language at his command, he brings with him a master-key that opens all hearts—the thoughts of his intellect—the feelings of his heart—the purpose of his will, he declares in such apt and gracious words :

“That aged years play truant at his tale,
And younger hearings are quite ravished.”

We inherit a language destined—as when we look at this great continent, and when we look at England’s vitality in all her vast populations, we cannot but anticipate—destined to be the prevailing language of the world.

And enshrined in this mother tongue of ours, so expressive, and so strong, we inherit a literature second to none. To display the stores of our literature were an undertaking too vast for my powers. And even to indicate in the time at our disposal would be impossible. But this much—I may be permitted to say—that every Englishman may find in his own mother tongue the elements and the opportunities of a liberal education. And this too, I will add, that educated Englishmen should be more familiar with that splendid inheritance, which in the literature of the last five hundred years they possess, than to judge by what one reads, and learns, they mostly are.

Well then, in its character of an organization tending to foster the sentiment of nationality, the St. George’s Society is an institution whose durability is desirable. English we are, and we shall be none the better for forgetting it. Our qualities go down from sire to son, and our virtues or our vices will be factors forming the character of the great people that is to occupy this great country. That element which we Englishmen contribute to this national character should be of the best. And the better it will be the more we “look to the rock whence we are hewn.”

I have already shewn that the durability of the Society in its character of a charitable institution is desirable. Now let me add that its enlargement and extension is desirable. The tide of immigration still pouring through our port, though passing on mostly to other places, leaves many a wreck stranded here among us; stranded they may be, but forsaken they must not be. Place then—by large and liberal gifts to-night—place the means of helping the helpless, and of succouring the unfortunate, in the hands of a society which ministers with such care and fidelity to the wants of your countrymen in distress. Remember the text : “To do good and to distribute; forget not, for with such sacri-

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