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THE UNITY OF THE EMPIRE.

By the Right Honorable Joseph Chamberlain.

WE English have reached a turning-point in our history,—a critical time. We are at the parting of the ways. The last chapter has been closed; we are about to commence a new one, and it is not too much to say that the fortunes of the empire and the destinies of our race depend upon its opening words. What are those words to be? What is to be the heading of this new chapter which will commence with the twentieth century? If I dare to speak for my countrymen, I think that they have already answered the question. I think this new chapter of our history will be rightly entitled "The Unity of the Empire." It is a great work, that will make illustrious the beginning of the coming century. Britannia still rules the sea, and I think that she will continue to do so. Even on land, where it was beforehand certain that the difficulties of an unprecedented war under circumstances absolutely novel would reveal deficiencies which it is our business to correct,—even on land, we have done what no other nation in the world could have done, shown vitality, actual power, and potential resources which must be most impressive. And then, there is the greatest feature of all in this eventful modern history. Look at the action of the colonies, the self-governing colonies,—in the period of trouble and trial which came upon the motherland! What sympathy have they shown! How practically they have shown it! How universal has been the sentiment! In view of all this, is it too much to say that, in this last twelvemonth, the empire has been born anew? The empire now is certainly not the empire of England alone, but the empire almost of the world,—of all our possessions, of all our dependencies. It must be borne in mind, in future, that we recognize in them absolute equality of right and possession in all that we claim in regard to ourselves. I believe that this new feeling is compensation for the war. This is the new imperialism which has been so grossly misrepresented, but which is, nevertheless, so well understood, and which has received the overwhelming support of the majority of this country, without reference to party lines of division. It is full of promise for our descendants, if not for us. I do not think that there is any fear now that we shall not hand down those great possessions unimpaired and strengthened, as we received them from our ancestors, and I am sanguine enough to look forward to a future even greater than the present. I believe that, as this progress has been made in so short a time, in the future still greater progress will be made. I think I am not wrong in seeing in the federation of Canada, and in the indissoluble union of the Commonwealth of Australia, a sign and example to our possessions in South Africa, and a foreshadowing of that great federation,—that federation of kindred nations which will realize the dream of every patriotic man, and will so strengthen the foundations of the empire that, in the good providence of God, it will continue to fulfill, long into the future, its destined mission,—justice, civilization, and peace.—Abridged from Success.

A DREAM OF THE FUTURE.

When Earth's last picture is painted, and the
tubes are twisted and dried,
When the oldest colors have faded, and the
youngest critic has died,
We shall rest, and, faith, we shall need it—lie
down for an æon or two,
Till the Master of All Good Workmen shall set
us to work anew!

And those that were good shall be happy: they
shall sit in a golden chair;
They shall splash at a ten-league canvas with
brushes of comets' hair;

They shall find real saints to draw from—Mag-
dalene, Peter, and Paul;
They shall work for an age at a sitting and
never be tired at all!

And only the Master shall praise us, and only
the Master shall blame;
And no one shall work for money, and no one
shall work for fame;
But each for the joy of the working, and each, in
his separate star,
Shall draw the Thing as he sees It for the God
of Things as They Are!

—Rudyard Kipling.