

them is to be set off as wonderful and mighty a military effort as was ever undertaken and accomplished by a non-military country. And in that military effort let us never for one moment forget the wonderful valour and heroism of those seven divisions who went to France in the early weeks of this war and made that wonderful stand which stayed the German onrush.

My Lord Chancellor and gentlemen, it is necessary for us to put into this fight not only all our energy and all our effort, but the very best brains that the Empire can produce. Let us not be turned from our purpose by any adherence to tradition or system, or by any personal considerations. The position or the career of any man or group of men is less than dust in the balance when weighed against the issues of this war. If we can draw any lesson at all from what has gone amiss in the past, in Heaven's name let us learn that lesson so thoroughly that our mistakes shall never be repeated.

I rejoice especially tonight to know that we are fighting side by side with our kinsmen in the United States. Bordering that country as we do for nearly 4,000 miles I know something of her people; I have seen thousands of her young men thronging to the colours, keen to take their part in this struggle. Germany utterly fails to realize the giant strength of the American Republic, whose people she outraged by her barbarity and provoked by her insolence until in the very name of humanity America was obliged to take up arms. There is no spirit more formidable or even more terrible than that of a peace-loving and patient people who, without lust of conquest or material gain, but purely for the vindication of public right and common justice among the nations, take up arms with reluctance, but with a relentless resolve never to lay them down until the task is accomplished. I believe that the death-knell of German militarism was sounded when the United States entered this war; I believe before peace is signed the military forces of the mighty Republic of the West will prove to be the most formidable that Germany has ever met, and that militarism will eventually go down before the onset of democracy.

In the meantime it may be that we stand at the gate of peril. If so, it is well that you of these Islands and we of the Overseas Nations should stand there together. Grave though the peril be, and keenly realized, we do not shrink from it. The line must be held and it will be held, until our kinsmen can strike with their full strength. And in the hearts of all the British people there is a profound conviction, a faith strong enough to endure and surmount any reverses that