

undertake to prescribe the precise steps by which it is to be reached, still less what time those steps are to take. Convinced as I am that co-operation offers no final solution of the Imperial problem, I am equally clear that it is only through co-operation that a final solution can be reached, and personally I would not attempt to predict how short or long the intermediate steps must be, nor even what they must be. Scattered as we are up and down the world we can combine to pursue a common end provided the combination leaves its members to choose their several paths and to tread them at their own pace.

You may say, perhaps, what is the use of educating people for a decision unless you are going to call upon them to decide? Well, I have confessed to you already that my own greatest fear is that either events may decide this question or may force the decision on electorates in all these countries before the real magnitude of the issues at stake has been grasped by a sufficient number to ensure an intelligent decision. You will agree with me that when you have reached your conclusions and worked out your creed, several years at least of strenuous work are needed in order to make that creed widely understood. Let us do the thing in front of us which calls out to be done, with all our strength and with a single mind, and be thankful for whatever time is given us in which to do it. The first sign that you have really succeeded in your work will be that public opinion itself will begin to demand that a decision be taken. People in the Dominions will realize that their position is one of dependence intolerable to free men. If you stick to educative work in a free community you cannot succeed without bringing about a decision of the issue at stake as soon as public opinion is ready to take it. What we must pray for is that tremendous and swiftly moving events, which