

Even the present war has shown that when the United Kingdom is attacked by a foreign despot, every part of the British Empire—the great free State of the modern world—will rally round the defence of the United Kingdom, and if any one seeks for the secret source of the unity of the British Empire, it is possible to answer with confidence that the unity between Great Britain and her Dominions has been the creation of liberty. The loyalty of the Dominions has been due in the main to the now derided policy of—it takes some boldness to use the expression—*laissez faire*. My friend Godkin, a writer of rare ability, born and educated in the United Kingdom, exercised during his later life in the United States an influence—used for the best ends—greater than has often been attained there by any man not born and educated as an American citizen. He often maintained that Rome's triumphs in war were originally due to the admirable training of Romans in the civil virtues of citizenship. This paradox, which was constantly attacked by one at least of my friend's audience, has seemed to me in later years to contain a vital truth. Even in war, the freedom of England, though it has betrayed some English weaknesses, has also performed miracles of power. The 'contemptible little army' was from the moment it crossed to the Continent found to be a force which no foe dared despise, and has grown with marvellous rapidity into a host numbered by millions. We may easily admit that Englishmen when the war began had much to learn from Germany. But we must also remember that the individuality, and the personal liberty of England may still teach a number of valuable lessons to some militarized States of the Continent. Is