

The gates are mine to open
 As the gates are mine to close,
 And I abide by my mother's house,
 Said our Lady of the Snows.

The summoning of the colonial premiers to the Privy Council, their assembly as an advisory committee of the Council to deliberate upon the affairs of the empire for the first time in history, the marvellous demonstration of the power and loyalty of the colonies in the jubilee demonstrations—these were striking dramatic incidents in the remarkable development of the imperial idea culminating in the very last years of the century.

Again—and now we come to the events of the past twelve-month—England found herself in a position of peril. Simultaneously with the invasion of a portion of the empire she found, not, it is true, the governments, but, to an extraordinary degree, the public sentiment of Europe and of an important part of the United States in open hostility to her. It was important that the strength of the imperial chain should be demonstrated, that none might misunderstand. Then the colonies rallied to her aid again, and yet again. The lion called to his whelps, and they responded. Natal and the Cape, Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand sent their sons to stand by the side of the Imperial yeomanry.

From the sunlit Sydney Harbor,
 And ten thousand miles away
 From the far Canadian forests to the shores of Milford Bay,
 They have answered, they have answered, and we know their
 answer now,

From the Britains such as these,
 Strewn across the world-wide seas,
 Comes the rally and the bugle-note that makes us one to-day.

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 Tho' ten thousand hearts be widowed,
 Tho' ten thousand heroes fall,
 Yet a million voices answer,
 We are ready for the call,
 And the sword we draw for justice shall not see its sheath again,
 Nor our cannon cease to thunder,
 Till we break their strength asunder,
 And the lion's whelps are round him,
 And the old flag's over all.

That is the great lesson of the South African war. The colonies have sent their thousands to fight for the integrity of the empire. For