

banquet as an Anglo-Virginian, I am reminded that a century ago, the Quakers of Pennsylvania and the Cavaliers of Virginia were very reluctant to sever their connection with the Mother Country. Mr. Evarts recently remarked that "had Queen Victoria been on the throne instead of George the Third, or if we had postponed our rebellion until Queen Victoria reigned, the rebellion would not have been necessary, and if there had been any rebellion at all, it would have been *on the part of England*." Mr. Evarts is doubtless right, but even under the then existing circumstances, it is a fact that very strong pressure had to be brought to bear on Virginia and Pennsylvania, to induce them to join in the revolution. Joseph Reed, writing to Gen. Washington, in March, 1776, said: "There is a strong reluctance in the minds of many to cut the knot which ties us to Great Britain, particularly *in this colony and Southward*." General Washington, replying to Reed, said that the people of Virginia, "from their form of government and steady attachment heretofore to royalty, will come reluctantly into the idea of independence." Thus, a century ago, the people of my State and of your State were united in their love for the Old Country, and I am happy to think that in some degree, there is still the same common feeling between them.

Englishmen may well remember that the noblest tribute ever paid to the grandeur and extent of the imperial sway of their native land, came from the gigantic intellect of an American—Daniel Webster. Mr. Webster it was who described England as "a power to which, for purposes of foreign conquest and subjugation, Rome, in the height of her glory, is not to be compared; a power which has dotted over the surface of the whole globe with her possessions and military posts, whose morning drum-beat, following the sun and keeping company with the hours, circles the earth with one continuous and unbroken strain of the martial airs of England."

This is the great Empire—greater to-day than in Webster's time—which has sometimes been described by foolish writers as in a state of decadence. There have been, even in America, vivid visions of Macaulay's New Zealander, seated upon Blackfriars' Bridge and gazing upon a dismantled St. Paul's. But if we believe in the truth of the great principles of the Christian religion, then "the secret of England's greatness" is not to be found in the magnificence and splendor of her empire, but, as Queen Victoria told the African chief, in that supreme revelation of God's will to man, from whence is derived the Christian civilization of the Anglo-Saxon everywhere; and may not Christian England still say:

"O, God, our help for ages past,
Our hope in years to come."

Sometimes, as one who is not *in* the Church so much as, I hope,