

“ We wish it to be clearly understood that, whatever differences on questions affecting the internal administration of our country might exist in peaceful times, the devotion of the people of India to the British Throne in the face of an external foe is bound to ensure such a feeling of harmony and internal peace that they can have no other thought than that of being united with the British nation in a whole-hearted endeavour to secure a speedy victory for the Empire.

“ With our fervent prayer that, by the blessing of God, this object may be realised before long, we beg your lordship to submit to His Majesty this respectful expression of our loyal sentiments.”

Not many hours elapsed before the confirmation of these sentiments was flashed across the ocean by the whole body of India's ruling Chiefs, by powerful associations, by all classes and sections of the people of India. Usually divided in innumerable castes, customs, religions, languages, at that momentous juncture in the Empire's history and fate they all united in the one simple cry : “ For the British Empire.” How the swords of