

It was a "mistake . . . [that] we failed to respond, as we ought to have done, to the splendid offers that came from our Colonies. . . . We hesitated to put upon them any greater strain than we thought was necessary. But what is happening now? They are multiplying their offers; and every offer is gratefully, promptly appreciated and accepted by us.

We shall have, in this war, before it is over, an army of Colonials, called to the aid of Her Majesty, who will outnumber the British Army at Waterloo, and nearly equal to the total British force in the Crimea. . . .

Never before, in the history of our Empire has it so realized its strength and unity. The splendid, and, above all, spontaneous rally of the Colonies to the Mother Country, affords no slight compensation even for the sufferings of war. . . . What has brought them to our side? What has brought these Young Nations to Britain's aid,—induced them to spring to arms, even before we called upon them? It is a true Imperial Instinct which they possess. . . . The sense of common interest, of common duty. . . . A pride in the great Edifice, of which they are members. All of these things have combined to consolidate and establish the **UNITY OF THE EMPIRE**. And . . . these people, shortly,—very shortly—as time is measured in history, are now, for the first time, claiming their share in the duties and responsibilities, as well as the privileges, of the Empire.