

treatment of the Poles and of Alsace-Lorraine to illustrate what I mean.

"Now, so long as the world is divided into separate nations there is no guarantee that any one of these nations will not be seized with the determination to gain its ends by the use of force. Thus there is not the slightest use in disguising from ourselves that the ruling classes in Germany to-day, the monarchy, the bureaucracy, the army and navy, and the junkers, believe that sooner or later they must throw their vast army and vast navy into the balance in order to win that paramount position in the world which they have been taught it is their destiny to occupy—an idea which is absolutely foreign to the politically more advanced inhabitants of Great Britain, who look to work out their national destiny by peaceful means. So long as this situation lasts and the world is divided up among separate and rival nations, there is only one road of safety for the Empire and its parts—to maintain such a measure of strength by sea that no other nation stands a chance of success if it attacks us. That, I concede, is in itself a dangerous situation, for the possession of overwhelming force has often seduced nations into using that force for improper purposes. But I believe that the political traditions of the British Empire are true enough and strong enough, especially if the Dominions have their say, to prevent any government from misusing its strength in the future. It is not the possession of strength which is wrong; it is the use one may make of it. Nobody ever gained anything worth having by being deliberately weak. Therefore, I believe that the possession of adequate strength is the first essential to the immediate future of the British Empire.

"The second danger is the danger of internal disruption. That may spring from two causes. It may arise out of the difficulty of reconciling the national claims of the Dominions—including Great Britain