

THE UNION OF TWO GREAT PEOPLES.

friendship of two democratic countries must rest on the sympathetic knowledge that the people of each country have of the other, even upon the personal friendship of large numbers of people one with another.

Personal friendships make for a friendly public opinion. It is therefore the highest political duty of British citizens and American citizens to build up political friendship by personal knowledge and personal friendship. It is your duty to learn all you can about the United States, about the country, about its people, their institutions, their occupations, their aims, and to make acquaintance with as many Americans as you can. It may be you will not like them all. (Laughter.) It may be you don't like all your own countrymen. (Renewed laughter.) But you will, I think, like most Americans. (Cheers.) Certainly most of them like you. (Cheers.) Most of all, make an opportunity to come and see them and see their country, and get a sympathetic knowledge of their methods and ways of life. Make a proper appraisal of their character and aims.

And of course this action must be mutual. In normal times many thousands of Americans do pay visits to your kingdom. They make pilgrimages. They come for pleasure and instruction. As soon as the war ends they will come again in still greater numbers. But in spite of visits, either way or both ways, of large numbers of individuals, each people has a vast deal of ignorance about the other. This very day I saw a statuette of Benjamin Franklin labelled George Washington. (Laughter.) It is a priceless treasure that I shall take away from Plymouth. (Renewed laughter.) Few merely private visitors get beneath the superficial conventions. By deliberately going about the task we may get far more thoroughly acquainted than we can get by the mere interchange of personal visits.