

meant anything had I not been reinforced in mind and spirit by that which I found in the middle east, by that fire which I found burning in the people there. So I was able to say on behalf of my own people—and I am quite sure, as I said in London, I could say it on behalf of the people in every British dominion—that so long as these dominions stand, Great Britain shall not fall.

When one has spent a few weeks, Mr. Speaker, in a beleaguered country like Great Britain, one is bound to be asked, "What is it that you have taken away with you? What is your vivid impression of this place?" It is not an easy question to answer. One collects many impressions all round the world. But the answer I always come back to is this: that if there is one thing which inspires anybody who journeys around the world at a time like this it is the glorious feeling of the utter and devoted unity which exists throughout the whole of the British empire. If it is the desire of our enemy to divide us and to conquer us, then we may tell him now that he has failed.

The Courage of Britain

Why do I say this: Well, I have every reason for saying it. I do not wish to transgress upon your hospitality, but I do want to say a few words to you about the almost overpowering reason I have for that belief. I found it not in palaces, not in cabinet rooms, not even in houses of parliament—though it exists in full measure in all those places; I found it in the ordinary streets and lanes of Great Britain. I found it in slum streets where hundreds of houses, side by side, had been beaten down, and where thousands of people had lost their lives. I found it where you would have expected that a veritable pall would have settled upon life. Wherever I went I found that the person who in a material sense had the least to lose was the most valiant in his resistance and his endurance.

Those who judge people by their size, by their shape, by their colour, by their capacity to win races or to play games—those who judge them by any of these superficial signs can never adequately understand the magnificence of the people of Great Britain. I have gone through working areas of industrial cities, and I have seen there men who, on a superficial judgment, would have been dismissed as almost negligible—sometimes little men, sometimes odd-looking men, sometimes men who appeared to be underfed. I have seen in these places women—toil-worn, with none of the advantages and none of the graces of life; they would have been dismissed by thoughtless observers as submerged people. But I have found in them the spark of courage shining as brightly as it burns in the heart of any hero on the field of battle.