

jealousy and immorality arrayed against her? She should have had no heart to stand; and she should have gone down like the great monarchies of the ancient world. But what have we seen? With checks, disappointments, and disastrous loss of life in the present war, very searching and very trying, the soul of the Empire in every quarter of its globe-encircling round has risen steadily to a glowing and indomitable heroism. For those checks, disappointments and disasters have had no dishonour in them, and have brought no disgrace to the imperial character. The people have known that the great cause of Christian civilization is at stake, and they can never be recreant to that. Had it been a question of Boer and Briton merely, the Imperial Government might well have treated the Boer as a semi-barbarian, who should be treated as a child; and, while the Boer would have been the loser, the world at large might have been no sufferer. But the peoples of our vast Empire recognized with our imperial statesmen that the life of South Africa was at stake, and the prestige of our common humanity was in peril. So they readily responded to the call of justice and righteousness, and considered not their sons too great a sacrifice to offer for the sake of civilisation. Realising as never before the unity of imperial interest at the great imperial gathering of 1887, the imperial heart was then stirred to the very depths, and needed only such an opportunity as this unhappy war has afforded, to demonstrate the genuineness of the conviction that Great Britain must stand as the champion of right, freedom, and progress before all the nations. That is really the sublime issue at stake. Shall the nations have before them Great Britain the example of the highest civili-