

"When war broke out, the idea prevailed in some malignant minds that the British Empire would fall to pieces, that Canada, Australia and New Zealand, and other British dominions beyond the sea, great and small, would go each its own way; but instead of that, when the first blow was struck, when Belgium was invaded, the British Empire proved to be more closely united and more impregnable than ever before.

"When we heard how your strong young men were marching to the fight, when we heard of their great and gallant achievements, when we heard how freely they laid down their lives in this cause of liberty and justice and civilization, our hearts bled with yours, and the people of the United States were actually in full sympathy with you. Of course there are a few—shall I say, malignant? I do not wish to use any offensive words, but we have many millions of men of foreign descent, one-half of them on one side and one-half on the other. But if we should go to war with you against an unspeakable enemy—I do not want to mention its name—I think nineteen-twentieths of all those people would stand by