

The veneration in which the Council is held is afforded in the well-known story which is, I believe, founded on fact, of the conduct of some poor villagers in an obscure corner of Rajputana, who had for years been struggling for their rights against the oppression of the powerful Rajah of that district. An appeal was finally taken upon the question in dispute to the Privy Council and a judgment being obtained in their favour, they conceived that any institution possessing such great powers must be of Divine origin. They erected an altar to this great unknown being, the Privy Council.

It cannot be doubted that it is one of the strongest links which binds the Empire together.

The fire of patriotism burns in our colonies with a pure, clear flame which is the wonder of the world. In South Africa, men from Canada, New Zealand and Australia fought side by side with men from England, Ireland, and Scotland, under one flag. With the copious outpouring of their blood they sealed our Empire together. In the words of a great orator:

"Their blood has flowed in the same stream and drenched the same field; when the chill morning dawned their dead lay cold and stark together; in the same deep pit their bodies were deposited; the green corn of spring breaks from their commingled dust; the dew falls from heaven upon their union in the grave."

While they in their lives and their deaths joined our Empire together, I trust that we shall not put it asunder by striking at the Privy Council appeal. The Privy Council, one of the most unique tribunals in the world, is the keystone upon which, if we work wisely, we may build up the great edifice of Imperial Federation.