

planted you and watched your struggles, if we have directed our eyes at all to you, think it better that the painter were cut and you were let go." This has entirely vanished. Show me to-day the public man on a public platform in this whole Empire that would offer a note so pessimistic and discouraging. Thus have I enumerated the chief, great, disuniting forces under the stress of which our Empire has struggled upward for hundreds of years. They have either altogether vanished, or they have declined to a degree which robs them for the future of the force they had in the past.

THE FORCES THAT MAKE FOR UNION.

Now consider with me the other set of forces—forces which in the past and to-day are making for union, and are joining in strong-set bonds the different parts of the Empire.

One of the primal and enduring bonds is blood and race. The descendants of British parents, in whatever parts of these islands, were proud of their blood and of the stock from which they sprang. They kept and held to that, and that held them together in many a discouraging hour.

Then there are the ties of tradition and literature, both strong and never once loosening their hold. I wish I had time to speak of them and the part they have played in our development—the fine and subtle cement of thought and sentiment firmly linking people sundered in so many other respects. These ties have held from the earliest times. To-day they exercise as much power in the outward direction as in any previous time, and now, hark from the far-off Dominions, are coming return contributions with similar effect and power.

Then there is the tie of common institutions. It is not necessary for me to speak of them—how the British out-goer has held to them—how he has treasured them—how he has reproduced them in his own community and in his own nation. They have held against the assaults of ruder life, against the assaults of foreign example, and to-day, in all parts of the Empire, we are bound and welded together in a common love and practice of British institutions.

The army and the navy have always been a great binding force of the dispersed people of this Empire, a force which has been vital in keeping together its various out-lying parts. It is so to-day, but in a greater and more intimate sense. The army and the navy to-day are composed not simply of the British soldier and the British sailor. They have in them representatives of every part of the British Empire working together. It is our navy and our army—we who come from the oversea Dominions so claim it. We have not done all we should have done to support it, but we have always respected it. We have always relied upon it. Our sons have fought in your army and your navy, and to-day the keels of oversea Dominion ships float side by side in British waters with those of the old Mother Country, and as years go by their numbers will increase—our navy will be truly Imperial. It will have in it representatives from every part of the British Dominions. We have gone further than theory, and our soldiers have marched side by side with British soldiers, when the Empire was in peril and her fortunes were challenged. We know what took place in the Boer war; we know what would take place in any other war in which the stability and permanence of the Empire were threatened.

Another great bond of union has been the King and the Constitution. And would it be out of the way for me, as an overseas representative, to say that the King and Constitution are ours as well as yours—that in both we have vital interest just as