

## *THE UNION OF TWO GREAT PEOPLES.*

To undertake it our comradeship must be perpetual, and our task is to see to it that it be not broken nor even strained. That is our task and our children's task, and their children's task after them, for we are laying new foundations of human freedom. (Cheers.) Of course it is the function of Governments to keep friendly nations in proper relations to one another, and both our nations fortunately can and do trust both our Governments to do that. Through all the difficulties and differences that arose between our two Governments during the early stages of the war there was no rupture of friendly dealing. When the full story of these years of delicate relations comes to be told it will be seen that mutual toleration and forbearance played a far larger part than a rigid insistence on disputed points. Such differences as we had were differences between friends. I am sure I may say without impropriety that the two distinguished British statesmen who were His Majesty's Chief Foreign Secretaries during this period showed a spirit in their dealings with the United States Government that put the whole English-speaking world in their debt. (Cheers.) I am equally sure that they would say the same thing for the Government of the United States.

While fortunately our two Governments may be fully trusted to bind us together in every possible way, Governments come and Governments go. In free countries they are as a rule short-lived; and they are always and properly, even in the conduct of foreign relations, the servants of public opinion if public opinion strongly asserts itself. Far more important, then, than any particular Government is the temper and action of public opinion in every country such as ours, and permanent union in our large aims of our two nations, generation after generation, for ever, must therefore rest on the broad basis of a friendly and informed public opinion in both countries. If this argument be sound it leads every one of us to a high duty. The lasting