

turning point from which the tide of evolution has set, for the whole world, as well as for ourselves, in the direction of freedom. But in America, too, the conflict of the same ideals is likely to be repeated: nearly half the population is German, and inherited ideals are not easily lost. We, at any rate, have never forgotten the lesson; never repeated the offence. To each of our colonies, the heirs of our common traditions and our common speech, we have given the priceless gift of perfect independence; not merely internal law and order, as the Romans did, but an unshackled control over their development in all its branches, political, social, religious, and commercial, in which it is possible that its interests may come into conflict with our own. The same measure of renunciation we have lately repeated in the cases of the Boer Republics, and of the Irish nation, under risks which may have appeared exceptionally great. Who among us now repents of our confidence, or will call it mistaken? With the inhabitants of India our relations have been the same. We have already given them a more than Roman peace, and they recognize with gratitude the sincerity of our desire—attested by often-repeated measures in that direction—to admit them, not only into partnership with ourselves, but to a complete and unreserved independence. The test of results has not proved discouraging to those who advocate the principle that love is a stronger bond of union than material force.

Freedom, however, is an ideal state, which we work for, and not a rule for the guidance of our conduct—it is a beacon, and not a compass. The compass, by which the English direct their course, is duty. Nelson's signal, 'England expects every man to do his duty',