

still remember that in those very times England stood high in the world, not only through the fame of her writers and thinkers and artists and men of science, but as a mother of freedom. She was full of faults, and was doing great and good work in spite of them.

Nevertheless these facts show one thing clearly, and suggest another.

What they show is, that the gift of Russia to the world is great. In 1836 a Russian author said despairingly that "we have given nothing to the world; we must begin over again." They began over again. They have done what deserves admiration and gratitude, what helps other nations and gives them hope.

What they suggest, and what is borne out the more one takes pains to know more of them, is an affinity, not less marked because of certain strong contrasts, between the Russian nation and our own.

The idea of nationality is one of the most potent in modern life. When we ask, What is a nation? the answer is that it is not a matter of blood, for nearly all nations consist of mixed races, nor is it a matter of language, which is often an accident. In most nations different languages are spoken, and there are separate nations, like the United States and ourselves, which speak the same language. Nationality lies in the consciousness of kinship and of mutual understanding, in the same habits of thought and life, in common memories of the past, and in common hopes for the future. Each nation has in this sense an individuality; each nation is a person, a member of the family of nations. It is of the essence of the family that each member of it is different from the others. Each has a different sphere of work and of duty, and each can help or, if unhappily it should be so, each can hinder the rest.

Through ignorance and through prejudice, this kinship has not been properly realised. The failure