

statesmen to warn us of dangers and difficulties ahead; they are the scouts of our history yet to be written, and in days of consolidating power they must not be blind.

We can hear behind us the measured tread of a host of advancing English nations, whose common path we are to prepare to make plain, and to render safe. We see before us tangled masses of confused systems, which we must do our best to clear away. We are warned of the dangers of our path by the whitened bones of empires which have gone before and perished.

But through the sunshine of peace, or through the darkness and gloom of war, our clear duty and our only hope is still to advance "shoulder to shoulder," helping the weak and cheering on the strong until we have prepared for those who come after us a safe camping-ground on the shores of a great future. Then, and not till then, can we take the rest of the weary, confident that so far as in us lies, we have done our part to ensure that our Empire shall remain one and indivisible "till wars have ceased in all the world."

[The following text is extremely faint and largely illegible due to bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. It appears to be a continuation of the author's reflections on imperial responsibilities.]

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