

influence in a marked direction, and that is the late President Lincoln who stood at the head of the United States nation and who guided the United States people through their civil war between the years 1860 and 1864. He will always rank high in history for the principles he enunciated and for the faithfulness he displayed in carrying out those principles. These are prominent examples of Christian leaders of public influence, leading their nations in the direction of paths that they think they should be treading. Now, hon. gentlemen, it is within the Victorian era that our railways have been developed, that our steam power has been developed, that our telegraphs have been developed, that our electricity has been developed; it is within the generation of these living men, some of whom I have referred to. All these have come upon the world as new factors, entirely new factors above all the factors of the centuries and ages that have gone past, and these railways, telegraphs and electricity and telephones and all these mighty powers have put us in a position to accomplish what it was utterly impossible for the past ages to have accomplished, what was not within the range of possibility fifty years ago, and when we come to think that the first railroad was projected on this continent, I believe in Boston, in 1827, and that the first steamboat crossed the Atlantic in the present generation, that the United States by themselves I believe have to-day more railroad construction than all the rest of the world put together, that Canada has added its thousands of miles of railroad to the interchange of trade, that the people of Great Britain own the vessels and the ships and the navies which are greater than all the rest of the world put together—at least if they are not perhaps greater than all the rest of the world, they are very great and powerful. It becomes apparent that these two English speaking nations, acting together exercise a powerful influence upon the destiny of the world. We come now to the subject that I have undertaken to deal with, and it is for the House to realize in what path their duty lies. We all recollect how a very short time ago the world was shocked at the massacre of Christians in Armenia. How it went forth that the Turks, under Turkish misrule, were bringing destruction upon a Christian population, one of the most ancient Christian populations of the world in that Asiatic province. Most

people turned their eyes to Great Britain to put a stop to those massacres. Most people thought it became the imperative duty of the people of Great Britain and the British Government to enter, like the Crusaders of old, and put a stop to a condition of affairs which was proceeding under Turkish rule. I have no doubt that if conditions had been such that the British Government could have undertaken it without fear of raising a greater trouble and creating more bloodshed, the spirit was there and willing to undertake the task, but we immediately observed specks upon the horizon which showed a jealous spirit, or whatever spirit it was, on the part of powerful nations, which acted as a decided check upon Great Britain undertaking the task. We saw that in consequence of a minor dispute over the boundary of Venezuela, the president of the United States showed that there was a possibility of the United States making that a *casus belli*. Then in another remote part of the world, the Transvaal, in the interior of Africa, we saw that the Emperor of Germany was disposed to make a *casus belli* with Great Britain there, and added to these was the jealousy among other nations as to the advisability of permitting Great Britain to get a foothold in Armenia. All this operated to permit a continuance of the present state of affairs. Great Britain was checked in any power that she might have possessed in redressing those grievances and putting a stop to those massacres. Hon. gentlemen will agree with me in saying that it is most desirable that such a condition should not continue to exist, that there are certain things that are due to our human instinct which should teach us that we have a duty to perform in order to remove any obstacles that may exist in the promotion of such a worthy object as was contemplated during the last four or five months. The very moment that the Imperial government was attacked for not taking that position with regard to the Armenians, what was Lord Salisbury's answer? "We must either act with the nations or we must act against them. We cannot act singly and lay ourselves open to be attacked by the nations in undertaking a task of that kind and bring more trouble than we are trying to remove. If we cannot convince nations that it is right that we should go in and protect the Christians in Armenia, then we cannot undertake the task." The object of establishing an international