

armament of modern times. But, glorious as it would have been had we lived in any of these times, we have been reserved for a still higher glory, to be members of the grandest Empire in the history of the world and in an age the most glorious since ages began to be numbered.

It has been well said of our age that it is "throbbing with the impulses of powerful forces." The heir of sixty centuries, it contains within itself all the impulses and forces that thrilled the minds and stirred to action the men of former generations—that invincible courage that so often has battled against the oppressor in defense of home and kindred and country, that love of knowledge and that spirit of enquiry that broke through the darkness of the middle ages and brought home to men all those treasures of learning and wisdom that we now enjoy; that religious fervor, that arising in the sixteenth century, and being re-kindled in the eighteenth, has carried to all lands the blessings of liberty and truth. Civilization is spreading rapidly on all sides. On the west we see it laying hold of Japan and transforming it from an insignificant group of islands into one of the foremost nations of the time; on the east we see it laying hold of Palestine, with all its antique modes of life, and transforming it into a modern community; of Africa and raising it to its place among the continents. In this age man is mingling among his fellows as never before. He is jostling against men of every color and creed, and is feeling, as man never felt before, the truth of Paul's declaration to the Athenians: "God hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth."

In such an age as this it is wholly impossible that a community can separate itself from contact with the rest of mankind. Years ago a section of people in the United States believed it to be possible. Accordingly, turning their backs upon civilization and their faces towards the unknown West, they set out. They marched for hundreds of miles. They endured hardships and encountered dangers indescribable. At length they reached their chosen abode where they fondly hoped they could live in their own way unmolested by the external world. Vain was their hope. The march of civilization drove them out. In more recent years we have seen the same experiment being tried in South Africa. A community of Dutch

farmers have attempted to seclude themselves from contact with their fellows of other nationalities. But in vain. Though they have made repeated migrations, civilization has followed them until to-day we see them forced to turn and attempt to withstand their relentless pursuer. I am perfectly well aware that the dispute between Great Britain and the Transvaal has been complicated by a great number of unfortunate incidents—the desire of the Afriander to recover his lost prestige, the discovery of gold in the Transvaal, the Jameison raid, the ill-success that has heretofore attended British expeditions against the Boers; but, notwithstanding, I confidently maintain that if we were to strip away all the side questions and issues that surround it, we would find that the real cause of the trouble is not a question between nations or between different policies, but whether in this age of the world's progress a community can separate itself from contact with the rest of mankind, and say to the oncoming tide of civilization, "Thus far shalt thou come and no farther."

It is not my intention this evening to consider whether the situation thus raised warranted recourse to arms or not. There are some who hold that the limit of diplomacy had not yet been reached; there are others, equally sincere, who maintain that, in view of the deep-seated hostility of the Boer to everything British, war was inevitable. I do not pretend to decide. But taking matters as I find them, I propose to show in the short time left at my disposal that the cloud of devastation now bursting upon the Transvaal has yet a silver lining, and that over the area where desolation is now rampant great good will come as a result of this war.

The first streak of silver that I see in the lining of his cloud is the establishment beyond question of British supremacy in South Africa. This means the suppression of all internal strife and the guaranteeing to every man of every race and creed that equal justice to be found under British institutions alone.

The second streak of silver is the establishment of a uniform system of government for all the British possessions in South Africa. This is by no means the dream of an idealist. A study of the physical conditions of the country warrants such a conclusion, nay, makes it necessary. Cape Colony, Orange Free State, Natal, the Transvaal, Rhodesia, and