

Englishmen, however excellent their qualities, do not all prefer their country's well-being, or the nation's glory to their personal gains. It is quite possible, too, to understand that Statesmen and Members of Parliament, chosen for their brilliant penetration, were a little backward to exhibit themselves as having been as simple as shareholders, and as egregiously befooled by selfish financiers, but with a yet worse result for the poor commonwealth.

There is little left for me to do save to thank you for the attention you have so kindly and patiently bestowed upon me. Though it has been my happy privilege to put before you something of the means that might relieve many pressing problems of suffering fellow-countrymen, and add incalculable strength, prosperity, and glory to your Empire, I have had to show that similar opportunities have been before neglected, and are in danger of being again neglected now. During a famine once before, the millions now wanted were wasted in labour purposely made fruitless. The theme could not be made an altogether pleasant one.

I have faithfully endeavoured to place before you facts in all their true instruction, whether they were fair or stern; but if I have had to point out error either in act or by omission, I have, I trust, thoroughly avoided to charge such faults as there have been, and are, on either individual or party.

It is the especial glory of such a Society as this that it demonstrates that it is honourably possible to cherish national duties, national interests, and national affections, to give ear to every effort for their welfare; but to have none for any voice of partizanship. In that spirit, I have not scrupled, within the limits of my theme, to shew what bitter fruits that partizanship bears. I acknowledge the intensity of my desire that the Empire of Great Britain may become a unity so perfect, that, throughout its glorious extent, the practice and the perpetuation of the sense of duty, may be strong enough to countervail that miserable, guilty selfishness, that sacrifice of the common good to self-seeking, which presents so sad a contrast to the spirit of the age in which the Empire was acquired, and which furnishes so ominous a warning for the age in which it is contemned.

The question has been asked, "What do colonists want?"

The principles and the affections of nationality are often to be found more strong in the Englishman who has gone forth to colonise, than in him who has remained at home. Such Colonists require the right to be, what so long as they are in being, they cannot fail to be.