

are the uses of adversity," you, I am sure, prefer prosperity to adversity. An increase of your wealth would not of necessity mean that you were in a condition of decay. Yes, Britain has prospered marvellously, and on that very account a partnership with her need not alarm us; but her heart and brain were never sounder than to-day. We have heard of "the decay" of the old land for a long time, for there are not a few "candid friends" who tell her so, and her own children consider grumbling their undoubted privilege; but somehow there has been about her for centuries a marvellous recuperative power. After stout Oliver went to his everlasting rest, England did decay. Charles II. and James II. were more than any nation could stand. But under William of Orange she revived, and when Marlborough went to the wars it was found how little her decay was worth. She seemed to decay again under the first Georges; but when did she stand higher than at the Peace of Paris in 1763? Next came the fratricidal war, in which she lost the New World that had been called into existence to restore the balance of the Old. Then indeed every one considered that her sun had set. But no; she retained Canada, and we are beginning to see what that meant. Her sons braved the long wash of Australasian seas and discovered a fair island-continent, on which already more than three millions of our fellow-citizens live, the most restless, vigorous, and wealthy populations under the sun. They colonised also the lovely New Zealand group; seized the Cape and penetrated—and are daily penetrating farther—into South Africa; entered India and gradually attracted or subdued its teeming millions of diverse tongues and races, and gave the *Pax Britannica* to all alike. They have taken possession of strategic positions and coaling stations all round the world in the common interest, in the interest of free and unfettered trade, and girdled every land and sea with posts that ensure the development and defence of a great oceanic commonwealth. While all this has been done abroad, Britain has developed at home with like stateliness of movement. Freedom has

"broadened slowly down
From precedent to precedent."

I tell you, almost with regret, that she is ahead of us and of the United States; that we have still much to learn from her; that in no country in the world is liberty so truly understood; that nowhere is it more necessary to appeal to justice and elevated