

the special task that has been set before them. What then is the special task which has been set before England? Englishmen have no need to be told. The answer will leap to every Englishman's lips. It is Freedom; the preservation of their own freedom, and the communication of the same inestimable blessing to others.

In some respects the mission of Rome was the same, but it fell far short of ours. Hers was the establishment of law, and the protection of the individual from outrage, and spoliation, by superior force. As Virgil says, 'To spare the humble, and abase the proud.' In the words of the town-clerk at Ephesus, 'The courts are open, and there are Proconsuls.' The success with which the Romans laboured for this end, and the gratitude which they thereby earned, are shown by the contented loyalty of the provincials at the time, and the enduring power and majesty of the name of the Eternal City. Rome, through law, secured the freedom of the individual, and their gratitude was her great reward. But, she was unable to rise to the conception of political freedom. The law and the political institutions throughout the Empire were Roman, and, in consequence, her rule from the beginning to the end was wholly sterile of new political ideas.

England has been selected for a more difficult, and much nobler, enterprise in the cause of civilization. Our lesson was learned in the revolt of our American colonies. They were animated with a love of freedom, which they inherited from their British forefathers, and they made us ashamed for our temporary departure from its principles. Judged by its results, their revolt may prove to be the greatest event in history; the