

denounce it, a renunciation of the noblest the most beneficial, the most peaceful primacy ever presented to the heart and understanding of man.

“On the other hand, great as it would be, it would demand no propaganda, no superlative ingenuity or effort; it ought to be an orderly and natural growth, requiring only that you should be reasonably true and loyal to your traditions, and we to ours. To gain it will need no preter-human strength or wisdom; to miss it will require some portentous degeneracy. Even were it a day-dream it would be an improving one, loftier and better than that which prompted the verse—

“*super et Garamantas et Indos
Proferet imperium; jacet extra sidera tellus,
Extra anni solisque vias.*”

Is it probable, as Mr. Gladstone seems to assume, that the British islands will remain at the head of the English-speaking populations of the world an hundred years hence? In 1910 the United States ought to have one hundred millions. Sir Lepel Griffin himself predicts that one hundred millions of people will be found within its borders before those now born have grown gray. If, in the providence of God, I am permitted to see my seventy-second year, in 1910, I shall expect to see the sun in heaven looking down upon a population of one hundred millions within the present boundaries of the republic. I will give you forty years in which to double after 1910. You should have two hundred millions in 1950, a date which some here in life's morning may live to behold. I will give you fifty years in which to double after 1950. In the year 2,000 you ought to have four hundred millions of English-speaking people on this continent. They will be found not necessarily within the present Union, but overflowing to the best lands north and south. Of course the most fertile soil will be taken up before the poorest. Somewhere on this continent we are likely to have, in the year 2,000, under the operation of present historic causes, four hundred millions of people speaking the English tongue. We shall double great numbers in the future almost as rapidly as, in the past, we have doubled small ones. We shall double our fifty and our one hundred millions nearly as quickly as we doubled our twenty-five millions or our ten. You think this a wild estimate; but it is only half the estimate of German scholarship, of Scotch sagacity and English condescension.

The highest foreign estimate as to the number of English-speaking people outside this continent at the date I have named, is only two hundred millions. Which will set fashions for the other—the two hundred outside the continent, or the four hundred here? Not more than one hundred millions of the two hundred millions will be in the British islands. There may be a confederation of all the present parts of the British Empire. America is not likely to form a part of it. She, however, will be the largest English-speaking nation—she is such to-day—and as such will have extraordinary political and moral influence. A confederate British Empire would be a second set of United States. [And why should not these two form a great Anglo-Saxon Federation, perhaps a prelude to “The Parliament of Man, the Federation of the World?”—ED.]