

men cannot without protest afford to fly in the face of so conspicuous a Providence. There are said to be two sides to every question, but we must make exceptions of the categorical imperative, and Lord Grey's project. For it is not more certain that two and two are four than that, if the British Empire is to fulfil its purpose, the slipshod methods of irresponsible scatteration must retire before the spirit of getting together.

I want to say to you, Gentlemen, that this project is one which vitally concerns the permanent interests of British Columbia. Here in Vancouver we understand, or ought to understand, that we have no time to lose in overtaking and guiding the ominous world-movements of the Pacific Ocean. Here is where the Empire will be lost or won. Here is where we are to decide whether the white or yellow man is to be supreme upon this vast water. Here the scattered threads of world politics are to be gathered up and woven into the fabric of Empire, and here is where history shall say, if this is not done and done at once, that the Empire was lost to the British race. We are facing a critical moment in our own development at this present time, and we ought to know what we do in the next few years out here—what we do for and with the Empire is likely to change or settle the direction of events for centuries to come. In proportion as we realize the solemnity of the issue, shall we be able to grasp the significance of any and every factor which will in greater or less degree help to synthesize the assets of Empire, organize our trade in the mutual interests, gather together and bind our racial enthusiasms into one efficient whole, and prepare ourselves for the task, whatever it may cost us, of establishing our free institutions upon the empty