

to the degree of civilisation which its position and history merit.

However: let bygones be bygones; France has sometimes been unjust to us; it is waste of space discussing the past. Dare we prophesy better things for the future on the part of both nations? Because if Great Britain has been stupid, selfish, ungracious, and ungrateful, France has often shown herself passionate, scurrilous, greedy and boastful. France has received from Fate that drastic punishment for her sins of omission and commission which Russia is now undergoing and which Great Britain mercifully escaped at the time of the Boer War (but which she will richly deserve if she does not now set her Government machinery, her War Office, her Senate and some other institutions in order).

There is one strong link which ought to bind France and ourselves and the rest of the Western nations together in a firm friendship and in a common policy in most matters which affect the welfare of mankind. We, together with France, Belgium, Switzerland, Spain, Portugal, Italy and North Africa, are constituent portions of that greater Western Roman Empire that has never really died, that Empire which of all States has conferred the greatest blessings on mankind. The civilisation of Great Britain and Ireland, Belgium, France, Spain, Portugal and Italy is a Latin civilisation, and perhaps no League of Alliance (saving that between Great Britain and the United States) could be more natural than the drawing together of the Daughters of Rome.

Now that our eagerness for territorial acquisitions has abated, now that both France and England are beginning to realise through the purse and through many a bloody and inglorious campaign that the task of founding Empires in Africa and Asia is often thankless (since we are merely training up new nations of black men and yellow men who will some day become independent and will bear us no more gratitude than we have borne to the memory of Rome), what subject of first importance can divide the interests of Britain