

Even an enemy must admire. And when a German compared what he saw in us with what he felt to be true of himself, what must his conclusions have been? Shall we boast of this? Ought we not rather to repent?

The sum of the matter is this. By their strenuous and sustained self-devotion, the Germans have thrown lustre on a bad cause. We are the heirs of the noblest cause of all times, that of Freedom, and, by our apathy, and indolence, and selfish luxury, we have come near to betraying it. Many of us have never fallen, many others, but not all, have repented. Let our repentance be heartfelt and general. Let us burn the new gods we have worshipped, and hate what we have lately desired, lest at a not distant future a worse thing overtake us.

And let us fight for victory, but not for peace with a probable relapse into the sloth and self-indulgence from which we have just been awakened. The soldier of freedom can never expect a lasting peace, but will always be prepared for fresh trials, and heavier sacrifices. We must recognize that even now nothing short of our utmost effort will avail to preserve our threatened freedom.

And let us not rely overmuch on the empire of the sea, lest that prove to be a snare instead of a bulwark. Think of what might have been our lot if the day had been decided against us at Trafalgar. Let no one expect or even wish to be exempt from his full share of risk and hardship. Should there be any such among us, I would say to him; 'Our sailors and soldiers are doing all they can, almost beyond the limit of human endurance; but if, trusting in your ships and the valour of your brothers, you are so mean as to prefer football to fighting,