

“gigantic though shadowy grandeur,” which takes more or less nebulous or dreamy shapes in men’s thoughts. These shapes are, however, gradually and surely taking on a more fixed form, and are much clearer to-day than they were even one year ago.

While the march towards solidarity is the great restless movement marking the progress of the Empire in the last third of the 19th century, it might be well to consider what events or movements characterized the preceding periods. Such an enquiry may help towards understanding why this movement is now going on, why it is possible and why it did not take place before now. It may also explain certain positions taken by by-gone generations of British statesmen, which were irritating and often puzzling to colonists.

The political history of the United Kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland, during the present century and the later years of the 18th, is something like the geography of Ancient Gaul. It may be divided into three parts. The first may roughly be described as the period covered by the Napoleonic wars and by the public lives of the men who took part in those wars. The second by the period beginning about the time when those men ceased to be potent influences in Imperial politics and closing with the time when the great reforms in the United Kingdom’s domestic legislation had been accomplished. Roughly speaking that would be the middle third of the century. The third is that now nearing its close and marked by the drawing together of the nations over which the Queen holds sway ; a drawing together which means the solidarity of the Empire, perchance of the Anglo-Saxon races and of those over whom these races rule.

#### FIRST PERIOD—STRUGGLE FOR NATIONAL EXISTENCE.

The first period was in many respects the most momentous in modern history. The long tyrannies of Louis XIII and Louis XIV, the reign of Louis XVI and his silly queen, unfortunate victims of their own training and of their predecessors’ oppressive rule, had resulted in the wild outburst of the French Revolution