

same rôle among the Americans. Nothing but our long-suffering loyalty and the mercy of Heaven could have made it such a safe and agreeable experiment.

But he is merely fulfilling his mission, and must not be blamed for the mother country and the colonies being at cross purposes, and for there being a slight divergency in our views. The secret of the difficulty we can easily divine. That dream of the United Empire Loyalists seems to have proved a will-o'-the-wisp that cost them their fortunes and their lives, and that has placed their descendants in a false position.

A century ago the mantle of the Old Jacobites seemed to have fallen upon our ancestors. Loyalty to the Crown was the first duty of man; and rebellion was a grievous offence, not only against the King, but also against "the King of Kings." The State was a unit, and the colonies merely component parts of it. In the dim future, they saw a united empire, that, strengthened and cemented by time, was destined to overshadow the world. It was a pleasant dream, and had it been shared in by others it might in time have become a reality.

But while we have been claiming that we were British subjects, not as a matter of favour, but of right, for no people ever more dearly earned a title to their nationality than ourselves, the Mother Country has looked on the matter from a very different point of view. The empire was comprised within the limits of the United Kingdom. The colonies were merely offshoots, a numerous family whose future could safely be left to the chapter of accidents. In her eyes we had arrived at manhood without having undergone the preliminary process of having been weaned.

If the ordeal so long postponed had come rather hard on us, this surely arose from no weak fondness on her part; of that she never was accused. She had never taken kindly, or even patiently, to maternity, and had never pretended to disguise her feelings on that point. Each fresh addition to her family, so far from having been hailed as a grateful olive-branch, had always been bewailed as a