

of failure for all, and the world would see what the British Empire was worth.

The hour struck a year ago and the world has seen. It will see much more before the close of this wonderful chapter in the annals of British world-state; but it has already marvelled at the sight of Canadians, Australians, New Zealanders, South Africans, performing in the name of the Empire deeds of heroism never excelled in the history of arms. That is no figure of speech but is the bare truth about what has been done by the men of the Dominions, before Ypres, in Gallipoli, and in South-West Africa. What the fertile German mind is making of this mysterious development we do not know; it has not been communicative on the subject, and no wonder. But Sir Robert Borden has put the explanation in admirable words. Why have these free nations submitted themselves with full enthusiasm to the fortunes of this terrible war? Why—as he said of his own gallant fellow-citizens—are the descendants of those who fought under Wolfe, and the descendants of those who fought under Montcalm, standing together in the Empire's battle-line? Why do we find the grandson of a Durham, and the grandson of a Papineau fighting side by side? What is the secret of this great, over-mastering impulse? There is the love of freedom, the large democratic ideal which has made the Empire. There is the knowledge that this war was forced upon us without alternative, save that of betraying a nation whose liberty we were pledged to protect. And beyond this, as Sir Robert tells us, is the realisation that this is a fight for the future of civilisation and the destinies of the world. What he has said in the name of Canada is true of all the Empire. And the honour that is paid to him by the City of London—the invitation to take part in the innermost Councils of the Government—is the recognition made through him of what England owes to every man in the Dominions who has declared for Imperial Unity, for blood-brotherhood, and companionship in arms in this war. That decision will have effects reaching far beyond the military issues of to-day. It will bear noble fruit, as surely as Canada's Emblem will flourish over the graves of our fallen comrades where Sir Robert Borden has planted the seeds of the Maple.