

Crown and the British Navy. As the personal embodiment of the race and the Empire the common sovereign is a great element of unity. The British monarchy carries with it peculiarly British traditions; it has widened out as the race and the Empire have widened; it is an institution at once time-honoured and markedly well adapted to present-day conditions. The King is the recognized personal head of a worldwide household of endless diversities but rooted in the past. He provides unity without interference. The British Navy may be classed as an Institution. It has enlisted sentiment behind it in an extraordinary degree, ultimately based no doubt upon its proved priceless past and present worth, but not measured by material considerations alone. From the days of Queen Elizabeth, the Navy has been the embodiment of the special genius of the race; it has been the prime product of the many-harboured mother islands; the sea has been the British heritage; in sea power Great Britain has continuously led the world. The Navy has a hold upon the affections of the peoples of the Empire which is never shaken. A strong navy is almost the only issue upon which all parties in all parts of the British Commonwealth are at one. In Blackstone's words, 'The Royal Navy of England hath ever been its greatest defence and ornament'. It has been in a special sense and a peculiar degree not only the main safeguard of United Empire, but also its most typical expression. The self-governing colonies began and developed their own individual land Defence Forces long before any substantial beginning was made of Dominion fleets. In the early years of the present