

iii. A great, and a united people.

That thought is in the air now. And in many minds the conviction is growing that if we Englishmen are to be a great, we must be a united people; that for the preservation of Great Britain there must be the creation of a Greater Britain. Of the practicability of the schemes propounded for the consolidation of the empire, I offer no opinion. But of the moral strength, (and upon occasion perhaps the more than moral strength) to be found in a unity of national sentiment ramifying throughout the empire there cannot be two opinions. The seed of that national sentiment has been growing long. And it matures apace. Even now the flower unfolds its beauty. And in the ripeness of time the fruit will come. Even now the flower unfolds its beauty; for the beauty and the fragrance, of our national sentiment is even now being gathered up and concentrated in the enthusiasm of loyalty affectionate respectful, and profoundly grateful, with which all hearts turn in this year of joy and gratulation to her who has sat in all the charm of homely grace, and all the majesty of public worth, for fifty years upon England's throne; "Not swaying"—to apply the words written by our great Poet in memory of him "who loved her only and who claved to her."

Not swaying to this faction or to that,
Not making her high place the lawless perch
Of winged ambitions, nor the vantage ground
For pleasure, but thro' all this tract of years
Wearing the white flower of a blameless life,
Before a thousand peering littlenesses
In that fierce light which beats upon a throne,
And blackens every blot.

For whom—wearing still "her crown of lonely splendour"—For whom—in this her year of jubilee—her subjects, in all lands, in one "great wave that echoes round the world,"—with one voice pray the poet's prayer.

His love, unseen, but felt, o'er shadow thee, may all love,
The love of all thy sons encompass thee,
The love of all thy daughters cherish thee,
The love of all thy people comfort thee,
Till God's love set thee at his side again.