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effect, and whether it fails or succeeds will depend upon how far rival leaders can rise above issues no longer relevant to a crisis like this. Those who can do so will find themselves, with the better part of their followers, standing together on common ground. The example and inspiration of one or two may easily determine the conduct of all the rest, and the leader of an opposition can sometimes do more to decide the turn of events at the outset than the head of a government. It was so when the co-operation of a great Liberal with his rival enabled Canadians to deal with the question of their national union, undistracted by minor and irrelevant issues. It was so when inveterate opponents, who had striven not merely in parliaments but on many a fiercely contested field, rendered it possible for two hostile races to make South Africa the home of a genuine nation. And so it may be in the sequel of this war. In all these Dominions, so remote from each other, so diverse in character, and yet so closely united by a freedom wide and single as the ocean which connects them, are leaders whose words can reach to all their coasts. The attack, by which that freedom is menaced, was fostered and invited by the weakness of the Commonwealth, a weakness caused by failure to mould its growth in accordance with the necessary principle of its being. Self-government has not been applied to the first and greatest of public interests. The burden of controlling the issues of national life and death has not been placed, where alone it can rest with safety, on every citizen of the Commonwealth able to bear it. Its own internal disorganization is a primary cause of this war, and