

*What is to be our choice ?*

Gentlemen, it is impossible to foretell the issue of the coming struggle ; but in my firm belief, we stand very near the parting of the ways : our opportunity is before us, it may never come again. What is to be our choice ? a mighty empire, a brilliant constellation of nations, united in common interests, disseminating throughout the world the spirit of free institutions and liberal ideas, proud of a glorious history and confident in the promises of its future, or the gradual estrangement of that empire's component parts and its ultimate disintegration. This is not the time to sit down and fold one's hands ; it is the time for those who believe in the future of our empire to speak out.

