

## ADDRESS

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The year 1897 has been one of great satisfaction to the British Empire League. Never before in the history of the empire has there been such a commingling of colonial representatives, and never before were heard, wherever the British flag floats, such hearty expressions of good-will from subject and alien alike towards the British Empire and the Sovereign that has ruled it so long and so well. The "splendid isolation" which for many years lent a somewhat pathetic interest to the British Isles in their struggle for moral and commercial supremacy has been supplanted by a "splendid Imperialism," whose light and glory have filled the world with the fame of Britain's achievements in peace, and with a wholesome dread of her power should she be called upon to defend herself in war.

To the British colonies, scattered over the globe, these tokens of Imperial unity have been accepted with the greatest cordiality. If the idea prevailed anywhere of colonial isolation, every such idea was fused and absorbed by the intensity of the larger one of unity, and the colonist who perhaps dreamed that on this side of the Atlantic or under the southern cross there might be established a new nation, wearing the livery of a republic, now feels that to recognize the Sovereign of the United Kingdom as his Sovereign is the highest honor to which he can aspire, and to wear the badge of British citizenship is the highest distinction to which he can attain. (Cheers.)

To the members of the British Empire League the uppermost question now is: How can the sentimental union so strongly accentuated during the present year be further strengthened in a practical and material way? Mr. Chamberlain, the Colonial Secretary, in a remarkable speech recently delivered at Glasgow, stated that "the basis of all patriotism is preference." Whether this be true or not in an abstract sense, in this age of practical politics we might fairly assume that a relationship strengthened by preference as well as by sentiment is stronger and more likely to continue than a relationship resting on sentiment alone. Even although such preference conveys but trifling advantages, the good-will which it represents gives it an incalculable value in cementing the bonds of friendship between peoples and nations. No one expected that the preference given to British goods in the Canadian market by the tariff of last session would have called forth such generous expressions of good feeling from the press and public men of the mother country. It was not the commercial advantage that moved the British heart so much as the