

The Englishman is the more clearly entitled to bring this charge against his agents, because his own attitude has been throughout irreproachable. He has borne disaster upon disaster with a Roman fortitude that places this, from a national point of view, among the most glorious of our wars; he has raised, without stint and without complaint, supplies that wake the bitter admiration of other countries. More than all, he has endured, with a constancy which no other people has ever been called upon to attempt, a constancy such as can only be paralleled in the story of Job or the Lives of the Martyrs, the vile abuse, the treachery, the base suggestions of some among his own household. There have been times when men undistracted by any bereavement of their own have envied their friends the wounded son, the brother in hourly danger, the keen personal pain that seemed to thrust aside the more deadly ache of patriotism, and times when even death was made more bitter by the thought that the dearest might after all have been given in vain. The courage with which this struggle has been carried on from week to week, from month to month, from year to year, has never failed; we do not believe that it would ever fail. But those who should have helped and encouraged us have thought too little of the strain of looking forward in a darkness full of danger.

Sore task to hearts worn out with many wars
And eyes grown dim with gazing on the pilot stars.

We write, as those who serve the public must write, with less reticence than would be expected from the individual Englishman; not only because we have to express the collective feelings of many men, but chiefly because the matter can be, and for the Government's own sake should be, remedied. It may be that in their case, as in some others, to know all would be to pardon all; but without going into such extravagant conjectures we may at any rate suggest that a sympathetic Government would be better followed than one which neglects its supporters to wrangle with its enemies.