

and indirect support for Britain's enemies everywhere—against a peaceable and unprepared people possessed of the bravery which looks at size, and objects to taking any advantage of even the most determined and ignorant foe. Much had been submitted to at the hands of the Boers. Insult, ill-treatment of natives and missionaries, hostility in trade, aggressive efforts at extension of territory, incessant pin-pricks of interference at the Cape, obvious conspiracy to seduce the Dutch of the Colonies from their loyalty of sentiment if not from their absolute allegiance. But the final strain came when a corrupt oligarchy refused to restore to British subjects the rights given them by treaty, accorded to Dutchmen in the Colonies, and freely granted by all civilized nations to foreigners in their midst. Even then the actual war was not commenced by Great Britain and was not entered into until the Empire's territory was actually and wantonly invaded by this proud and confident and ignorant enemy.

The shock of this invasion will probably be summed up by history as the pivotal point in the striking development of sentiment which followed throughout the world-wide realms of Britain. The loss of South Africa or the failure to assert British supremacy when the issue was thus forced meant much to the sons of the Empire everywhere. It would not only have humiliated Great Britain in the eyes of rival nations and precipitated peril wherever aggressive foreign ambition could find a desirable opening, but it would have lost her the respect, the admiration, or the loyalty, of rising British nations in Australia and Canada; of lesser Colonies all over the world; of swarming millions of uncivilized races in Hindostan, China, and Northern Africa. Its influence would have been a shock to the commercial and financial nerves of the world; a blow to the independence and liberties of all the

"little peoples" who now rest securely under the real or nominal guarantee of British power. In the Persian Gulf and on the borders of Afghanistan, upon the frontiers of Siam and the shores of the Bosphorus, in the waters of Australasia and on the coasts of Newfoundland, upon the banks of the mighty Nile and along the borders of Canada, the result would have come as the most menacing storm-cloud of modern history. The power of a great race to continue its mission of colonization, civilization, and construction, was involved; and would be again involved if any future and serious European intervention were threatened.

What immediately ensued upon the throwing down of the challenge will be one of the most important episodes in the annals of our Imperial evolution. The despatch of different contingents of nearly three thousand men from the vast territories of Canada amid scenes of unequalled enthusiasm; the gathering together upon the continental shores of Australia and in the ports of beautiful little New Zealand of body after body of troops until the loyal Southern Colonies assumed the appearance of an armed camp and over eight thousand men had sailed for the seat of war; the motto proposed by the Hon. G. W. Ross, Premier of Ontario, upon an important public occasion and the principle of which is strongly impressed upon the heart and mind of the Canadian people: "Canada and the Empire, one and inseparable, now and forever"; the statement of the Melbourne *Argus* that the Empire has now decided to stand or fall together and that "the Colonies by sharing the perils will earn the right also to share the triumphs of the flag"; the declaration of the Premier of New Zealand that every able-bodied man in the two Islands was ready to go to the front if required, and that "the Colonies shared the privileges of the Empire and ought to