

Sperry, officers, and gentlemen, to me has fallen the privilege and the pleasure of proposing the toast of the Navy of the United States of America. (Applause.)

Tonight that Navy has for us a personal and an impersonal aspect—personal in so far as it is represented by the gallant seamen whom to-night we are gathered here to honour. (Cheers.) Impersonal in so far as we are reminded that the Navy of America has in twenty years become one of the greatest and most efficient fighting forces of the world. (Applause.) My toast must properly be confined to this latter aspect, but I cannot deny myself the opportunity of welcoming, on behalf of this whole Dominion, Rear-Admiral Sperry, his officers, and men. (Prolonged cheers.) We are proud to have his fleet here with us—(hear, hear) proud that America has honoured us by this visit, but it is our special pride that the fleet's first port of call outside the Dominions of its own nation is a New Zealand one. (Applause.) To have over 14,000 brave officers and men of any nation visit us would be in itself a memorable event, but to have these seamen come to us, not as aliens from a nation foreign to us in traditions, tongue, laws, and ideals, but coming to us from a people we delight to think sprang from our own old Anglo-Saxon blood—(hear, hear)—from a people speaking our language, and sharing our own traditions, institutions, and national aims; this is the greatest delight to us of all. (Applause.) No fleet, save our own, could by its presence in these waters have provoked such a warm and universal welcome as to-day beats in our hearts. (Applause.) The presence of this majestic fleet, after a memorable voyage, is to us—is to the world—but one more illustration of the greatness of that English-speaking race of which we ourselves are proud to be a branch. (Applause.)

Let me then, before passing to the impersonal aspect, express to Rear-Admiral Sperry our heartiest congratulations, our sincerest welcome, and our best wishes for the future of his fleet. (Cheers.) To-day sixteen warships of America ride at anchor in this port, besides a number of auxiliaries—a magnificent detachment, but yet but a detachment of the Navy of America. We have here the Connecticut, the Louisiana, the Vermont, the Minnesota, the Rhode Island, the Ohio, and ten other magnificent warships. A great formidable fleet in itself, and yet but a part of its nation's naval strength. (Applause.)

The rapidity of the rise of America as a sea power is unparalleled in the annals of the world. (Hear, hear.) It seems as if Titanic force has taken birth before our very eyes, for I have the highest authority—the President of the United States himself—for saying that so late as 1883 the American Navy consisted of but a collection of rusty monitors and antiquated wooden ships left over from the Civil War. (Laughter and applause.) To-day that Navy comprises 21 modern battleships (with 4 building and 4 more proposed), 4 older battleships, 10 first rate armoured cruisers, and 4 second-rate, 10 monitors, 13 protected cruisers, 3 scouts, 10 destroyers (with 5 building and 4 proposed), 27 first-class torpedo boats, 6 second and third-class torpedo boats, and 12 submarines (with 3 building and 4 proposed). (Applause.) Truly, gigantic strides in the naval expansion of America have been made during the last quarter of a century. And the whole tone and temper of the American nation shows that it is determined to possess a navy greater and mightier still, worthier of its people, their power, their dominions, and their destiny. (Applause.) And to this end the people of the United States are accepting an enormous burden of military expenditure; this year no less a sum than 204,122,853 dollars, being 36.5 of their great public revenue. As compared with this, France spends 201,430,623 dollars; Germany, 240,007,724 dollars; and England, 270,506,757 dollars. Hence, it will be seen that America spends on preparations for war but 64 million dollars less than the stupendous outlay of Great Britain, and thus it will be seen that on naval and military preparation the United States is expending more in proportion to its public revenue than France, and very nearly as much as England and Germany.

What wonder then that America now takes rank as the second naval power of the world. (Applause.) The marvel is that this splendid position has been won so soon. And in this connection there is a fact significant of the deep cordial relations of the two great English-speaking nations. The fact that her public men declare it to be the intention of the United States to be second in naval strength to no nation in the world except

England, whose naval supremacy America, for reasons we surely infer, does not find it necessary to rival. (Applause.)

Great then as is America's Navy of to-day, its growth, it is evident, will not cease, but continue by marked degrees until it fully corresponds to the national greatness of its people, and every manly lover of peace, righteousness, and honour must rejoice in this recent and prospective naval expansion of the greatest nation of the West. (Applause.) America has spread civilisation west and south over that vast area of the world's surface where floats the Stars and Stripes, mainly by the forces, actual or potential, of her arms, and mainly by the same powers by land and sea have the foremost of modern nations spread civilisation over the world.

By these forces alone can civilisation permanently and safely protect itself from the assaults of barbarism and despotism, and by these forces mainly—if not alone—peace, law, order, and justice can be extended into those lands where anarchy, savagery, or tyranny now holds sway. (Applause.) The lesson enlightened nations teach us is that naval and military forces exist not for aggression, not as of old for conquest—but for protection against oppression, and for safeguarding a nation's greatest asset—its national honour. But the navy of an enlightened people may have an even higher mission—namely, that of preparing the paths of peace and progress by the repression of the barbarous and lawless forces of benighted lands. (Applause.) France teaches this lesson in what she has done for Algiers; England, in what she has done in India and the Great Valley of the Nile; America, in what she has done in the Philippines and Cuba. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) In these and many other cases during the last hundred years the arms of the leading civilised countries of the world have been the forerunner of peace and order, the harbinger of justice, and of protection against cruelty, oppression, and insecurity. This, then, not aggrandisement—not mere domination, is the highest mission of national greatness, the highest purpose of national expansion.

In America, as elsewhere, this enlightened sense of national duty has not been reached without the strenuous opposition of many whose narrow sympathies felt no interest in the struggles for right and freedom taking place in the outside world. In final analysis these people are really resisting their nation's destiny and high mission. Happily, it is no longer necessary to say to America, "Pray God your greatness may not fail from craven fears of being great." Thus it is that the rapid naval expansion of the American navy is viewed by every enlightened man and woman as a further guarantee of the peace and ever expanding civilisation of the whole world. (Applause.) Not a peace at any price, not a craven-hearted peace like that which permitted the continuance of the horrors of Armenia, not a peace that makes brave men hold down their heads in submission to shames and wrongs, not a peace which sacrifices the honour and the sense of humanity of a people to the mere profit, safety, and ease of the present, but a manly peace, purchased with the sword at the belt, and purchased at the expense of nothing, which touches all national honour, at the expense of nothing, which is essential to the progress or preservation of higher civilisation. (Applause.)

It has been well said by President Roosevelt that it is only the warlike power of a civilised people that can give peace to the world, and he has marked in eloquent words the fact that it is the great expanding nations which bequeath to future ages glorious memories and the material results of their achievements. He has generously declared that England stands as the archetype and best exemplar of a mighty expanding nation; and we in turn can truthfully declare that the United States of America, inheriting as she does the traditions of England, stands before the world the great expanding nation of the West, an expansion, as I have endeavoured to show, not from sordid motives, out from the noblest aims of human progress, enlightenment, and honourable peace. Articulate or inarticulate, this is the motive which has mainly brought into being the great fighting force of the American navy of to-day. These are the aims which will secure its extension and increased efficiency so that in the years to come a navy of that great but still young nation of Anglo-Saxon stock will in ships, men, and fighting efficiency, with the majestic navy of the older parent land of England, be bound in motive deep-laid, if unwritten in the language of diplomacy, resulting from a sense of kin-

ship both in blood and common mission, namely, the securing of the world's peace, the protection of the weak against oppression, and the promotion of those higher aims for which the nations of Great Britain and America stand so pre-eminent. (Applause.)

Nor is America fulfilling this destiny by merely building ships. Now, as in Nelson's day, the morale of the officers and crew, their skill, their courage, and their discipline are as essential to great results—to victorious results—as the strength, speed, and guns of the warships; and surely no navy of the world contains more gallant, able, and disciplined seamen than those of the navy which to-night we wish to honour. (Applause.)

The American Navy looks to our own Nelson as the greatest admiral the world has produced, while America herself proudly points to Farragut, to Dewey, and if occasion arose, to Evans, and to our guest Sperry this evening—(deafening applause)—as admirals with all the courage and judgment that make a fighting seaman great. (Applause.) In no great conflict yet have England and America stood in armed alliance. Some day that may happen, for a thousand claims to such a brotherhood of arms are found in common origin, goodwill, and community of national aims. True friendship is tested by adversity. That incident 50 years ago in the Peiho River is an earnest of this, when the old American Naval Captain Josiah Latnah outraged international law to assist an English gunboat then under an overwhelming Chinese fire. (Applause.) He could not, in spite of these obligations of international comity, passively witness the destruction of a friend by an alien enemy. He interfered, and bluntly offered as his excuse, "That blood was thicker than water." (Applause.)

And surely Europe saw and America felt where England's place would have been had that shot which at a critical moment in Manila Bay Dewey fired across the bows of an intruding foreign warship, resulted in a greater conflict—President Roosevelt himself points out that Dewey's firmness and action there was, to use the President's own words, "in hearty accord with our most cordial well-wishers, the English naval representatives." (Applause.)

The two great English-speaking nations were in those hours, and in their hearts, firm, if unchained associates. The battle of Manila Bay and that of Santiago placed Admiral Dewey in the front rank of the great naval commanders of the world. (Applause.) These fights did more—they showed the world the morale, the cool courage, the splendid marksmanship, and general efficiency of the American Navy, and, more than all this (as far as we are concerned), these great battles and the whole Spanish-American war showed in all the Dominions of Britain that sense of natural comradeship with America which would have brought us to her side had aid in an extended conflict been necessary. (Applause.)

But the highest mission of America through her Navy is not to be the special friend of any nation. She may be the friend of France, or the friend of England, but she will be, I believe, their friend only because she is a greater friend still to the eternal principles of honour, truth, and justice. (Applause.) These principles she will help to promote by all the methods known to honourable peace, but, if need be, she must and she will spell her mission through iron lips of her thousand guns, and tell the world, as she told it at Manila and at Santiago, that America stands to-day, as Old England does, the champion of the oppressed and the destined and determined defender of justice and freedom. (Applause.) In this sincere belief, let me propose the health of the Navy of the United States of America, which I couple with the name of Rear-Admiral Charles S. Sperry. (Prolonged applause.)

#### ADMIRAL SPERRY IN REPLY.

#### THE MISSION OF THE NAVY.

Responding to the toast of the United States Navy, Admiral Sperry, who was greeted with a perfect hurricane of cheering, said that such a welcome would make even the dead speak, and naval officers were not dead. (Laughter.) The mission of the Navy was "Peace with Justice," and certainly, he added, "so long as our navies go undefeated by an enemy, no enemy can possess the seas of your shores or our own shores." (Applause.) "The Prime Minister," continued Admiral Sperry, "had traced the de-

velopment of the United States Navy from the Valley of the Shadow to its present hopeful condition, and they older officers know: "We know the hopeless days," he said, "when we were told that the interests of eighty million active-minded energetic human beings could be limited by geographical boundaries; that we had no interests anywhere in the world beyond those limits. We know those days when we were told that we had the strongest navy in the world, and we had seven rotten monitors. (Laughter.) We remember them sadly, but we are very hopeful of those gallant young officers who are coming on afterwards. We had been building ships and turning them out for what we called 'settling down cruisers,' and they didn't settle; they got more unsettled. (Laughter.) The Navy had to rebuild them, but eventually our President, to whom we owe so much, concentrated these vessels into a fleet, and the fleet is the executive arm of the Navy. A navy without a fleet is a mock. The fleet is growing day by day through officers who understand their ships' personal equations. A ship is a human being, and they are all tricky things. (Laughter.) The position of a fleet is to combine the ships of the Navy into a perfect executive instrument in order that we may have peace with justice. (Applause.)

"I am much more inclined to speak of the Dominion of New Zealand than of ships," continued Admiral Sperry, "because to-night our hearts are full of the reception that our more than cousins—brothers—are giving us. (Applause.) This magnificent Dominion undoubtedly is one of the richest on this earth, and their principal care seems to be how to distribute the State property amongst the people without pauperising them—(applause)—demanding that the wealth which is the property of the State shall be so administered and so divided that the people shall not be pauperised, but that each and every one shall have a fair opportunity to labour and end his life in peace and contentment. (Applause.) That is why we call this the newer America—with its boundless resources, magnificent harbour where those sixteen battleships lie in perfect security in all weathers. It is almost the securest harbour I have ever seen the fleet anchored in. (Hear, hear.) I am not sitting up at night for fear any of the vessels will break adrift. If they do, it will be on hospitable shores. (Laughter and cheers.) New Zealand is magnificent in its resources. It has a self-respecting labouring population, with no poverty and no want, and it is certainly the metropolis of the Southern Hemisphere. On behalf of our President I may say safely that nothing will be nearer to his heart than the genial, cordial, thankful welcome that has been given to the fleet by the Dominion of New Zealand." (Loud applause.)

Continuing, the Admiral expressed, on behalf of the officers and men of the fleet their most cordial thanks for the reception. He was confident that it would be as cordial to His Majesty the King as to the President. (Hear, hear, and cheers.) "Certainly," he concluded, "if His Excellency is able to oil the Dominion machine, we know that he can oil the international."

#### THE TOAST OF THE BRITISH NAVY.

When the applause had subsided, Admiral Sperry rose to propose the toast of "The British Navy." He could not imagine, he said, any toast which gave him more pleasure to propose than the service from which they had learned their laws and customs, and which had supplied the noblest traditions from the great actions in the defence of its country.

#### ADMIRAL SIR RICHARD POORE IN RESPONSE.

It was some minutes before Admiral Sir Richard Poore, who rose to respond, could make himself heard through the deafening applause. He expressed his cordial thanks for the manner in which the toast was received. The cordiality had a true ring in it. It was a ring to which, although he had been but a short time in these waters, he was afraid he was getting accustomed to, and he was rather afraid he was getting spoiled. (Laughter and cries of "No.") He knew that when the toast of "The Navy" was proposed in these waters it was received with a cordiality that he could almost say—and that was saying a great deal—hardly ever, received anywhere else. (Hear, hear.) "To you gentlemen