

**JUBILEE GREETING AT  
SPITHEAD TO THE MEN  
OF GREATER BRITAIN**

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Jubilee Greeting at Spithead to the Men of Greater Britain by Theodore Watts-Dunton

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**THEODORE WATTS-DUNTON**

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*at the Sign of the BODLEY HEAD.*

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TO OUR GREAT CONTEMPORARY WRITER  
OF PATRIOTIC POETRY,  
ALGERNON CHARLES SWINBURNE,



*You and I are old enough to remember the time when, in the world of letters at least, patriotism was not so fashionable as it is now—when, indeed, love of England suggested Philistinism rather than “sweetness and light.” Other people, such as Frenchmen, Italians, Irishmen, Hungarians, Poles, might give voice to a passionate love of the land of their birth, but not Englishmen. It was very curious, as I thought then, and as I think now. And at that period love of the Colonies was, if possible, even more out of fashion than was love of England; and this temper was not confined to the “cultured” class. It pervaded society and had an immense*



influence upon politics. On one side the Manchester school, religiously hoping that if the Colonies could be insulted so effectually that they must needs (unless they abandoned all self-respect) "set up for themselves," the same enormous spurt would be given to British trade which occurred after the birth of the United States, bade the Colonies "cut the painter." On the other hand the old Tories and Whigs, with a few noble exceptions, having never really abandoned the old traditions respecting the unimportance of all matters outside the parochial circle of European diplomacy, scarcely knew where the Colonies were situated on the map.

There was, however, in these islands one person who saw as clearly then as all see now the infinite importance of the expansion of England to the true progress of mankind—the Great Lady whose praises in this regard I have presumed to sing in the opening stanza of these verses.

I may be wrong, but I, who am, as you know, no courtier, believe from the bottom of my heart that without the influence of the Queen this expansion would have been seriously delayed. Directly and indirectly her influence must needs be enormous, and, as regards this matter, it has always been exercised—energetically and even eagerly exercised—in one way. This

*being my view, I have for years been urging more than one friend clothed with an authority such as I do not possess to bring the subject prominently before the people of England at a time when England's expansion is a phrase in everybody's mouth. I have not succeeded. Let this be my apology for undertaking the task myself and for inscribing to you, as well as to the men of Greater Britain, these lines.*



