

THE IMPERIAL HERITAGE

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The Imperial Heritage by Ernest Edwin Williams

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ERNEST EDWIN WILLIAMS

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The Imperial Heritage

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AUTHOR OF "MADE IN GERMANY" "THE FOREIGNER
IN THE FARMYARD" "MARCHING
BACKWARD" ETC

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WARWICK HOUSE, SALISBURY SQUARE, E.C.

NEW YORK AND MELBOURNE

To
WILLIAM ERNEST HENLEY

Where shall the watchful Sun,
 England, my England,
Match the master-work you've done,
 England, my own?
When shall he rejoice agen
Such a breed of mighty men
As come forward, one to ten,
 To the Song on your bugles blown,
 England—
 Down the years on your bugles blown?

• • • • • •
They call you proud and hard,
 England, my England:
You with worlds to watch and ward,
 England, my own!
You whose mailed hand keeps the keys
Of such teeming destinies
You could know nor dread nor ease
 Were the Song on your bugles blown,
 England,
 Round the Pit on your bugles blown!

W. E. HENLEY.

Introduction

WHETHER the following pages are likely to be of some small use as a bird's-eye view of the greatest Empire the world has ever seen, or whether they are absurdly futile to compass the task, I leave to my readers to determine. It needs but little study of the vast territory over which the Self-governing Colonies spread themselves—young giants of the World-Empire race—or of the fathomless wealth—actual or potential—lying within their dominions, to realize how hopeless is the endeavour to give within the limits of a small volume even a shadowy, panoramic view of the British Empire's glorious inheritance. All I can hope to accomplish in this book is to make of it a finger-post, to direct the eyes of Englishmen to the vast realms to which as English citizens they are heirs.

In so doing this little volume may serve also the purpose of putting heart into the despondent

Englishman, who watches the growth in these latter days of rival empires, and his Motherland's industrial sway crumbling bit by bit, snapped up in the maws of eager competitors. It may help him to remember that mighty Daughter States are arising to uphold the honour of the House. In them let us put our trust.

Hitherto we have been contemptuously neglectful; but their affection and loyalty have never faltered, and the first steps towards welding the family ties more firmly, making a great House United that cannot fall, have been forced on by the Daughter States: truly a generous return for the Mother-country's ungenerous past.

England's unmotherly treatment of the Empire's young Provinces arose from two causes: ignorance the fruitful source of ill-doing; and a pinched, anæmic philosophy of political life, which now, as Little Englandism, is the world's laughing-stock, pending its final relegation to the lumber-room of the Dark Ages. But we still need more knowledge.

E. E. W.