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EDITORIAL.

RALLYING ROUND THE FLAG.

When the history of the present war comes to be written there will shine out from the record, in letters of gold, the splendid rally to the help of the Empire of its Dominions overseas. They have placed at its disposal with lavish generosity, the flower of their manhood to fight its battles, the pick of their nurses to work in its hospitals, money to help to meet the abnormal expenses, and stores of all kinds. Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, have poured out their wealth ungrudgingly, asking and expecting no reward except the opportunity of serving the Mother Country.

And side by side with those of the same blood as our own, there have come to our aid the splendid men of our Indian Empire, foremost in loyal service. It is a tribute to the justice of British rule in India, and to the trust and affection which British officers have inspired in their subordinates, of which we may well be proud, that its great princes, and its fighting men, should be at one in their desire to help; and, in the midst of many anxieties, we can say with confidence, that our vast Empire is absolutely at one, in love, loyalty and devotion to the flag under which its subjects live, and which represents to them duty, freedom, comradeship, a threefold cord which is not quickly broken.

So our serenity is undisturbed when the pessimists talk of a shortage of nurses, for they under-estimate the loyalty and patriotism which inspire trained nurses throughout the length and breadth of the Kingdom. There are reserves still of nurses who, if need be, would willingly serve our sick and wounded and those of our Allies. And if every available nurse in the Kingdom were utilized we are not then at the end of our resources. No one who has met the splendid, fully-certificated, and capable women who have come in their hundreds from our

Dominions beyond the seas—their services in many instances being placed at the disposal of the Government free of expense—and has heard them tell how many more, as highly skilled, will come for the asking, can fail to realize that in her nurses as well as in her soldiers the Empire has a mine of wealth still largely unexplored.

Speaking recently for one of our self-governing Dominions a statesman said "All we have is at the service of the Empire" and that represents the general feeling.

Such affection for the flag, on which the cross of St. George, the cross of St. Andrew, and the cross of St. Patrick floated bravely in the breeze over many a building and from many a flag-staff on Empire Day, is an inestimable asset. Men, women, and children rally round it of diverse countries, creeds, politics, and interests. Many have died to save it, many more would do so to-morrow, if need be, and count their lives well laid down. For it is not merely the sentiment which surrounds a piece of bunting, strong though that is, which moves men to deeds of heroism. But the flag represents to them all for which their forefathers have fought and died, the freedom which has followed where the symbol of British power has been planted, and the confidence which inspired those who have gone before, that their sons and daughters would maintain the liberties handed down to them intact. In this faith every loyal Briton is prepared to live and die.

Lastly, this country will do well to take to heart the object lesson that the nurses sent from certain provinces in Canada, the whole contingent from New Zealand, and those working in South Africa have a right to the title of Registered Nurse, while those from Australia have a uniform, standardized training, and are working for State Registration. They ask why the nurses in the Mother Country are still unregistered.

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