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1 The British Empire.
A SPEECH
Delivered at the Banquet in Boston.
$\qquad$
Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee

Nicholas Flood Davili, QG. M.P.
1
$\qquad$
Winnipeg :
Nor'- Wester Office,
1897.


## THE EMMPI AIND THE GOMONRS.

The Greatness and Glory of the Empire-Gruwth of The Colonies-The Colonies, The Empire - Can. ada's Wonderful Progress-Impregnabllity and Future of the Empire-Iubleee Speech at Boston, U. S. A., By

## NICHOLAS FLOOD DAVIN, Q.C., M.P.

There are 40,000 Britishers, who are British in sympathy in Boston; some Englishmen, Irishmen and Scotchmen; but by far the largest portion coming from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. Early in the year, theleading men of the 40,000 formed themselves into the Victorian Diamond Jubilee Festival Association, Mr. Thos T. Stokes being secretary, and the result was that on the 21st of June there was held in Boston such a festival as was never seen before in a foreign city. During the day there was an imposing procession, made up of those of the 40,000 who wished to march, of a large number of pensioners wearing clasps and medals headnd by John Gillon, the sole survivior of Waterloo, carrying a banner on which was inscribed "Waterloo, 1815;" of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company who wished to join the procession to show their apprectation of the way they had been received in England and Canada; of marines and blue jackets from Her Majesty's shlp "Pellas," which had rome from Hallfax to take part in the nelebration; of
members of the Caledonian Soclety in the Scotch national dress headed by a piper; and of carriages of distingulshed ptopie. This procession, which exclted great enthusiasm among the British onlookers, was followed in the evening by a banquet. The Boston Heruld next morning said: "A magnificent and distinguished gathering voiced last night in Mechanics builaing: the tribute allke of Boston and Massachussetts to the great and good woman who for the past sixty years has ruled over the people of Great Britain. The assembly had all the prestige of unprecedented numbers. The festival brought upwards of 2,600 persons to the tables in the great banquet hall and made a spectacle when the proceedings were at their height of a oharacter very remarkable and impressive." From 6 o'clock until ten minutes to 7 in one of the large rooms adjoining the hall, Mr. Davin, whr had come from Ottawa to reply to the toast of the Empire and the Colonies, and Mrs. Davin, held a levee, and the ladies and gentlemen halling from Canada were ere entering the dining room presented to them. The great gal'erles around the hall were flled and thousands looked down on a

## The Cimpire and the Colonies.

scene of splendor and decorations it would be impossible to descitbe. "The human interest of the occasion," adds the Boston Herald, "dominated its every other aspect. To see two thousand slx hundred people at dinner was a sight in itself." As a fact, 2,700 people sat down to dinner. The banquet was presided over by Mr. George 13. Perry, the prestdent of the Victoria Diamond Jubilee Festival Association, to his right and left being His Excellency' Roger Wolcott, Governor of Massachusetts, Sir Dominie E. Colnaghi, consul general of Boston, Nicholas Flood Davin, Q. C., M. P.; Vice Consul W. H. Stuart, His Honor Mayor Quincy, the Hon. Winslow Warren, the collector of the port of Boston; Captain Humpage, of Her Majesty's ship Pallas, and a number of distinguished persons, milltary and clerical. Among the ladies were Lady Colnaghi, Mrs. Wilcoek, Mrs. Davin, Mrs. J. T. Baker, ete.
The usual toasts, the "President," the "Queen," the "Commonwealth," and the "Army and Navy" having been duly honored Gen. Curtis Guild, the toast master, proposed "The Empire and the Colonies," coupled with the name of Nicholas Flocd Davin, who represented Canada (cheers.)

Mr. Davin-Your Excellency, Mr. President. Ladies and GentlemenOn behalf of Canada which the Diamond Jubilee Festival Association has done me the honor to ask me to represent and on behalf of the Empire and the Colonies for which I speak, I thank you for this reception. I hope I shall be excused a little criticism of the toast to which I have the honor to respond"the Empire and the Colonies"-Why, the colonies are the Empire. (Cheers) As a colonist, as a Canadian, having met this afternoon many of those who are now seated down those long and numerous tables, and learned how deep their interest is in the great premior colony, the great Confederation whence I come, as an Imperial Federationist

I am forward to assert that the col. onles are the empire and that it is by colonists that Simpire has been bullt up. (Renewed cheering). It will be obvious that whatever time, relying on your for bearance, I may presume to take, yet having regard to the subject, my speech will be brief; that therefore my mood must be on $\geq$ of appreciation not criticism-uas, inust it not be one of enthusiasm? Nay, more, could ary man realizing truthiully the faets of the present and the past, let him be in what critical mood he might or will, feel other than enthusiastic? The critic and the historian, indeed, when he comes to de:1l with the sixty years whose teeming incilents our minds garvey will have qualifleations and.reservations to make, wheh, even it present to us, it woul be improper here and now to obtrute. Nobody nced sup. pose that I hold that all things which should have been done. have been done, or that some things which have been done would have been hetter nut left undone. I do not therefore invite your attention to an histormal chsquisition. I ask your attention while in a few wor:1; I touch on what is true and vital anil uncillestionable in the light of this eple moment which challenges not our attention meeplv but the attention of clvilized mankind. (Cheers.) I know that in Boston, as all over the United States, there are British born subjects who sti:nd astile from the British empire, kut they have no logical or historical ground for this, bectuse the rempire which as an actuality is of comparatively recent date has been built up by and is com. posed of Irishmen as well as Englishmen and Scotchmen-all the hare fought and thought and bled the world over in extending and hul'ding and blending-weaving the wonderful wetraising that wonderful thing-without prototype or parallel-the British Empire. (Cheers.)
But. Sir, there are thronging memories which point to beekoning associations and thrllling suggestions. From this great theme of Empire I must for one moment turn aside.
Standing here for the first time on this classic ground, in the Athens of
the $\mathrm{N} \epsilon$ makes to du h the oth inspirat who we young stimulu low, Lo which great $n$ mocrac which knowlec can bo: like the from th henefac themsel tive of $t$ the hea should ent con obliviou noblema and ha him ast what al ter.) effort o first $m$ dence. $t$ of citiz the cries fired th and yet most cit emerged and blo thus and Diamond British C hero-fal the heal George I This contrary than abs deur is e this mor the Emp ren arou cities an cross, ur torrid su foreign 1 has gone no Britis

## The Empire and the Colonies.

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I must
time on Athens of
the New World, common gratitude makes it impossible I should forbear (1) do honage to those great men who the other day moved among you, whose inspiration was essentially British, Who were among those who gave my young mind its earllest and nob:esi stimulus-Emerson, Holmes, Longfeilow, Lowell. (Cheers.) These are names which must not pass away. This great nation is Justly proud of its democracy. Happy is the democracy which has an aristoeracy of genius ard knowledge, and happy is the city which can boast of giving humanity names like these. (Cheers.) Turning away from them and other great intellectual henefactors, which irresistibly present themselves, how striking-how ilustrative of the humanizing influence of time the healer as well as avenger-that we should be assembled here under present conditions ${ }^{r}$ for I am not quite as oblivious of the past as that English nohleman. who on approaching Boston and having Bunker Hill pointed out to him asked "Who was Bunker? ana what did he do with his hill?" (Laughter.) Why, it requires only a small effort of the imagination to hear the first murmurs of the war of independence. the guns of Concord, the shouts of citizens rising against taxed tea; the cries of the embattled farmers who fired the shot heard round the world; and yet we are met in one of the foremost cities of the great repulblic which emerged full panoplled from the smoke and hlood of a rebellion commenced thus and here-to do what? To honor the Biamond jubilee of the world Empire British Queen: and the grandsons of the hero-farmers foin with us in drinking the health of the granddaughter of Genge III. (Cheers.)

This is a magnificent festival; but, contrary to rule, it is mreater relatively than absolutely. Grand as it is,its granddeur is enhanced when we think that at this moment. not merely in London is the Empire Queen gathering her children around her, but that, in great cities and capltals under the southern cross, under northern auroral lights, torrid suns, within British limits, or in foreign lands wherever British onergy has gone-or in a land like this which no British heart can heartily call for-
eign-for what is th's great remble bu: ont of the lion's whe'ps grown to lionhood, and for distinction sike Erowing a pair of wings and proclafming hime self a dion of the air-(Laughter and cheers)-everywhere in the civilized world, nay in its unclvilized corners also: wherever British p'uck and endurance are found-and where are they not.?-the same fast is held-in c!ty and jungle, or mountain and plain, there is no clime so inhospitable the"e is no tract so dongerus, no is.e so little, no sea so lone, but over tower and turret and dome, over scud and sand and palm tree, at this liour. the flam hearing the three crosses of the three great nations of the two heroic siles, rises with solemn splendour and subltme sisnifcance; where it is day the w'nds of heaven reverently caress its immortal folds, and where it is night the stars salute it as a fellow star. (Applause.)
The majority of tise great empire or power disp'ays of the rast had no mo al or spiritual significance. The most sug. gestive is that of Alexander with kings and satrapies bowing to Greek genius and generals from whose loins great dynastles were to spring walting en tho son of Philip. Alexander's was a miltary despotism, but his conquests carried the Greek language and Gre?k literature to the East: and althougn Greek civilization rested on a base of slavery it had yet for its central idea the importance of the individual and of individual culture. Still nuther in power or splendour or in relation to the progress and happiness of mankind do the claims of Alexander on our interest approach what is taking place today.

Talk of Rome in her palmiest days, when the republic had reached its apex, when the car climbedthe capitol, leading captive kings and princes from Syria; crowned chiefs of transmontine tribes, the fair haired Dacian, the turbaned priest from Egypt, the blue-eyed Gaul, followed the cortege of boastful conquest; when the wealth of the Gariges and the Euthrates, of the Nile and rersian seas, of the Loire and the Rhine, were poured into the lap of the Tiber; when the column ro:e wound round with tales of success in war; when laurelled conquerors triumphed over pontiff kings; when power

## The Empire and the Colonies.

and fear drew the leaders of a hundred tonnuts to the misir (ss of mankind and bent thelr natis in servile obelsance. A greater-it more zargeous-above all, u nobler spectacle clafms our attention on the banks of the Thames than ever dazzled the liuphates or the Ilber. We have in London to day the rule:s of free communlties, of nascent nations, wherein education is difused among the poorest. Where no slave can breathe, proffering pioud voluntary allegiance, the rulers of free peoples, whose meanest citizen feels that he is the fractional part of a soverelgn; representatlves of colonial governments; representative, of colonial armies, militla, volunteers: swarthy princes and rajahs from India's three hundred millions, pleiaded with diamonds and belted like Orion; dusky warrios from Guinea; the dyak from Borneo; the Maori from New Zealard: all the jewelled pomp and splendour of the East, all the enligtenment of the West: Indla, Africa, Australasia. Canada, the islands of the sea spontaneously met in grateful tribute and willing homage. (Loud cheers.)

Never has there been a pageant so supremely moral, so superb in power and at the same time in intellectual, moral and spiritual interest-so inspiring with the loftiest hopes for human destiny. No department of state, no function of peace, no arm of war, no dependency is unrepresented in that imposing throng swelled by princes and ambassadors from empires and kingdoms and republics. Mr. Whitelaw Reid, the special ambassador of this sepublic. great fahrimant of itturnal atomocralic thunder, bears aloft the stars and stripes of this great free nation, side by side with the insignia. of the Czar, and the flag of Switzerland gleams near the eagle of France.
All the genius and power and glory of thel empire converges in the imperial city, where the Abbey of Edward the Confessor consecrates the dust of men whose names are flled on fame's eternal head roll, where the mighty dome of St. Paul's canopies all that is mortal of the heroes of Trafalgar and Water100. This pageant more splendid in its moral aspect than in those of wealth or pomp, or dominion, or power is held un-
der the overwhelming splendour of memories in which saints and sages, warriors and kings and poety and statesmen loom large and iaminus; the great ancestors and forerunners of the Queen, the Edwards and Heniy's; mailed barons and ermed cruenders: Shakespeare and his brethren; Chaucer and Milton; Marlbourough and Sid. ney; Ciarendon and Burke; Chatham and his greater son-an army of immortals rise from their tombs to salute this day; the cope of the crowning cycle; the fruit of centuries of great thought and sage deed, of pattence and vaiur and will, of heroic life and herols death. The English Harold smiles from remote centuries on the latest, greatest and most fortunate of English rulers, and the British Arthur, the purpose of whose life a frall quten and erring woman spolled, sees that puipos: fulfilled beyond his fondest dreams ly a blameless woman and a British queen; and Victoria stainless, dutiful, realizes the ideal shattered by tne beautiful and passionate Guinevere, (Loud and proonged cheers.) And whlle all this is taking pace in London and echoed in ten thousand cen. ters of free life-echoed in Melbourne, in Winnipeg, in Calcutta, Vancouver: in Cape Town and Hallfax, and here in this great clty of another country, though not another race, look seaward! Around Spithead there moves a fleet of warships. Sea dragensArgosies of steel clad terror-a spectacle such as the world never saw be-fore-and this practically only the Channel fleet. I need not tell an enlightened audience like this what has been the amazing growth of the British empire in the past sixty years. A few days ago the New York Tribune in an article did justice to "the British Golden Age," and pointed out that while other reigns had been more sensational, none had been so truly glorious, none had been so great progress in the expansion of the empire, in polltical development, in the industrial, social, incellectual and spiritual advancement of the people; the bounds of freedom have been enlanged. In every fleld of sclence and every walk of art renowns have
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## The Empire and the Colonies,

idour of nd sages, poets and lumin Jus; runners on i Heniy's; crusaders: en; Chauh and Sid . Chatham thelr day; the ig cycle; at thought and valur dd herole id smiles the latest, te of Eng Arthur, the I queen and hat pulpos dreams ly a Britsh ess, dutifui, ed by ine Guinevere. , ace in Lonousand cen. Meibourne Vancouver; x , and here her country, look sea. there moves a dragens-ror-a spec. ver saw be. only the teil an enis what has of the Britsixty years. New York pid justice $\because$ and pint. gns had been had been ${ }^{\text {so }}$ peen so great of the empent, in the ual and spirpeople; the e been enscience and owns have
outdazzled each other. I have dwelt on the significance of this magnificent -demonstration in this great city, but uot less significant is it that one of the foremost papers of this Republic which is England's grandest child, shou:d point the finger of eulogy at the wonderful expansion of the empire in these sixty years. That expansion is not the expansion of a conqueror. It is due to the trading adventurous instincts of the British race and if the British soldier has followed the trader it has been to protect him and help to spread freedom and enlightenment.
What is the priceless thing-the great jelwel held in the mighty casket of the British empire? Only in that cimpire today, certainly outside the United States, is the idea of individual liberty and of equal justice between man and man understood. And as sure'y as Eingland when Napoleon menaced the world was the asylum of liberty and the successful protagonist of freedom so surely does the British Emplre today carry in its mighty bosom all the best hopes of the human race. That empire is greuter morally than physically; its moral greatness stryasses its extent and power; it is not because it is worldwide: not because the zun never goes down on its flag; not because its marthal airs, as your own Webster said, keep time with the hours, that we love and honor it; but because no tyrant cal iive within earshot of its drum, no slave breathe with that "blooming old rag overhead." (Cheers.)

Greece taught the world individual culture, aesthetic self respect; to England alone we owe the more valuabit lesson that individual iiberty stands pre-eminent in value. above all else.
Canada il ustrates in a special ma:ner this broad beneficent policy and the progress of the emptre-a progress which suggests an expansion and greatness which wili yet dwarf what we witness today. Last Sunday's Herald, one of your papers in the city, having pointed out, aided by an excellent map, how during the Queen's reign at least three-fourths of India had been acquired; to the acquisition of Fiji; parts of Borneo, Guinea and Hons Kong; to the acquisition of vast terri-
torles in Africa; to the emergence of Australia,New Zealand,Victoria, South Australla, Qucensland, said, adopting the ianguage of the New York Tribune. that "the development of the Dominicn of Canada has been almost equal to the discovery of a new continent." Sixty years ago the total population of the empire was $1271-2$ millions. Today it is more than treble that, being 3s3 1-2 miliions, or more than one-ffith of that of the whole world. Its area is now 11,334,391 square miles, three times the area of Europe, one-ffifth of the area of the giobe; and ofthis area Canada furnishes $3,457,000$ square milles-something less than one-third of the whoe. Canada is not merely a colony, it is a confederation of colonies, and during the reign has marched forward with the rythm and sequence of a great drama. When her Majesty ascende 3 the throne, the fire and smoke of rebellion blazed and blurred over the baniss of the St. Lawrence and along the north of Lake Ontario. Everywhere the people were oppressed. Eut as a result of the rebellion Quebec and Ontario were united and recelved responsible government in 1841. Meantime in the Maritime provinces a similar constitutional struggle was going forward led.in Nova Scotia by Joseph Howe (loud cheers) whose genius having achieved responsible government he became the first premter. By and by a movement for confederation arose and in Ontarlo two great men, rivals but patriots, came to the front, Sir John Macdonald and George Brown; in Quebec Sir Georg. Cartier. who had been a rebel in 1837; in New Brunswick Sir Lecnard Tilley (cheers); in Nova Scotia Charles Tupper (loud cheers)-the present Sir Char'es, whose indomitable will carried his Province Into confedeation, which became an accomplished fact, the same year in which Disraeli passed his reform bill. which for the first tume put power into the hands of the masses of the United Kingdom. Meanwhile we had entered into a recip:ocity treaty in 1854 with the United States and in 1856 had completed the building of the Grand Trunk railway. The Provinces confederated, we proceeded to acquire the Northwest; Manitoba, British Columbia and

## The Empike and the Colonies.

Prince Edward Island were added to the confederation and in 1885 at a co $t$ of 150 mil fons we spanned the conti:ent with a rallway from the sormy At lantic to the Pacific. Let me $b$ your attention for one moment while in a sentence or two I give you some id a of this great confederation of colonies which I have the honor to represent here tonight.

In 1837 there were no ocean steamers plying between Great Britain and this continent. An occaslonal steam $r$ found its way Into New York there to be gazed at by wondering thousands as in the case of the "Great Wester $n$ " which urrived in New York on the 23rd of Aprll, 1838, to be detained several hours because the steward could not procure provisions enough in all Now York, and she had to wait for a delayed boat load of them. But in 1897 fourteen distinct Canadian lines of steamship cross the Atlantic to and from the $s t$. Lawrence, and I have just come from Ottawa where last week in the parliament of Canada we voted $\$ 500,000$ a year to a fleet of grey hounds to make the trip at the rate of twenty-one knots an hour.

Zook at our shipping! In 1837 the Montreal shipping arrived, consisted of 208 vessels, 50,277 tons register; in 1897 4,233 vessels, $2,156,859$ tons register. In 1837 the total trade of Canada of the R. N. A. provinces, imports and exports, amounted to $\$ 28,000,000$; in 1897. $\$ 240,000,000$.
In 1837 the shipping employed inwards amounted to 1,840 vessels, 617.899 tons; in 1897, to 96,641 vessels of 25,268,536 tons.
Look again at rallways. We had in 183716 miles of railway, 1 locomotive. 4 cars, 20,000 passengers, 7,716 tons of freight. Today, in 1897, we have 17.000 miles of railways. 2,046 locomotives, 62.000 cars, 14.810 .407 passengers, 44,266.825 tons of frelght. In 1837 we had 16 miles of canalp five feet on sill. In this year of race, 1807 , we have 72 miles of canals from 9 to 14 feet on sill, with a submerged canal between Montreal and Quebec, made by ritting ont about $25,000,000$ cubic feet of earth and stone. the whole opening up a system of navigation over 2,000 miles in length at a cost of $81,000,000$. (eheers). You
ehanr that. Sut I have yet to tell you what is mure algnilicant as regards the emplre. We have in the last twen-ty-llve yerars opened up a country known as the Canada Northwest. whtch eouid supply England with all the beef, wheat, mutton, butter, pork and cheese she needs. AVith Canada not to speak of Australla and India, and the Cape, nobody need talk of starving Great Isritain.

In 1891 we shipped eastward from Manitond and the Northwest $17,000,000$ bushels of grain; in 1892 20,000,000 bushels; 1893 17.000,000 bushels; 1894, 19,000,000 busheis; 1895, 22,000.000 bushels: In 1896, $26,000,000$. We have on the Atlantic and the Pactife the finest harbors and the finest coal flelds in the world. The finest coaling stations for an imperial fleet. We have silver and gold and nicisel and mica mines. We have ferests all but inexhaustible; rivers and lakes; fisherles the envy of the woild, mountains which you who have erossed the Rockies know surpass those of Switzerland in sublimity and terrific grandeur. We have great citles on the Pacific coast, a city only ten years oid, which might be a great capital. In Winnipeg the village of 1881 is a grout city today, and along the line westward towns and cities most of which-I don't think you could say this of Boston-have plenty of light and yet have never had any gas (laughter and cheers.)

Now there are some papers which are hostile to this Great British empire. I don't know why, any more than I can understand an Irishman being hostile to it. I know very well theret have been unwise English statesmen and bad laws, but the expansion of the British empire is the enlargement of the freedom and blessings and enlightenment of the human race. It is admitted that no two great powers combingl could cope with England, but it is sald all the powers might combine. Is that likely? But suppose they did. Remember Great Britain and Ireland faced a world in arms a century ago, and never sat down until Waterloo, on $\epsilon$ of whose heroes is at this board tonight, crowned her and placed the bloody laurels of victory
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round her brow. (Cheers.)
The Queen't reign has been compared to that of Louls XIV. But Louls XiV, old and wearled, went painfully to the tomb in the midst of reverses of fortune and overawed by a formidable coalition. Queen Victoria sees her immonse emplre increase every day and casting her eyes towards every compass and scanning the world's map the meets only with subjects to excite satisfaction and inspire hope. Louls XIV.'s system laid the foundation of the decadence of France, and led on by sure steps to Sedan. A comparison has been made with the Roman, but Roman power died in the extremitles and the provinces in time had elther to be abandoned or rose, subdued against subduer, and overwhelmed the centre from which heart and faith and valor had fled. Everything is different with the British empire. The heart is as sound as in days of yore, and for the ex-tremities-the imperial offshoots-the nation colonies tura not to rend but to defend and strengthen. Under the Southern crcss is an island a quarter the size of Europe with great and splendid citles which did not exist when Her Majesty ascended the throne. There is British Africa: there is the confederated half of this continent, whence I come-all saying to the ocean Queen, 'our pride and glory is to serve under you and stand by your slde." Macaulay, led away by a love for effect. pictured a traveller from New Zealand sitting on a broken arch of London bildge. sketching the ruins of St. Faul's, and the great Daniel Webster in one of his addreses reflected that if England should pass into decay the great Republic whlch was her child, born in storm and bltterness and fated to greatness, Hisuld preserve her memoky, her arts, her language, her love of freedom. England's time cannot come unless her empire's time should come. Where is the nation, or combination of nations, which could meet this world
wide empire united to fight? Instead of the New Zealimder sketehting the ruins of St . Paul's we should have the Maorl swelling the imperial army. The menliving in the two heroie isles show no decay, and as for their coionial chi!dren and brethren our Toronto High. lander's beat the regulars the cther day. In earller hours or danger we sent the 100th regiment. We guided the Imperial troops up the Nile. Australla sent her sons to fight and has ar. ranged for her own naval contingent. Scuth Africa has followed sult. What I see is more and fuller life everywhere. It may be that we shall see despotism and tyranny and barbarism clvilized only in the art of war, com. bined aginst this emplre with its 50 , 000,000 of English-speaking men and milllons of loyal subject races. It may be we may have to face an Armageddon in which the nceans and seas of the round world will be purple with blood and flame, and it may be,that is, it is not beyond the bounds of possibllity-it may be we should succumb. It so we would to use language which my gallant friend and his marines and blue jackets will understand, we would fall as they fall ind die as our fathers died with the jack stlll floating nalled to the mast, leaving a nume without a parallel and which never could have a parallel. Much more likely we would send tyranny skulking to its hold cooped up in narrower bounds and make the three-crossed flag stlll more the worle's flag of freedom. All the signs are slgns of life; of expanding material, moral and spiritual power. This empire will go forward becoming greater in power and a still greater blessing to mankind. A federation of free nations. The centurles will make milleniums, and yet it is my bellef and hope and fervent prayer that beauty's ensign will be purple on those imperial llps and the day beyond the forecast of man when death's pale flag will be advanced on that imperial brow. (Loud and prolonged cheers.)

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