FOR WHAT THEY HAVE RECEIVED—

THERE is a sad lack of imagination about the long list of Jubilee honours. Had a master mind but grasped the idea that here for once there was a chance of according Imperial recognition to the men who have contributed during these sixty years to the extension of the Empire both at home and abroad, we might have seen a very different and much more distinguished list of names. In defiance of the obvious facts that England is essentially a naval Power, and that the progress distinctive of the Queen’s reign has been essentially the growth of electric communication rather than in military prowess, in the arts of peace rather than in the arts of war, the authorities who rule the dispensing of Royal favour have made the military element overshadow all others in the Jubilee list. Just as the Jubilee procession was planned on exclusively military lines till one grew weary of the eternal dragons and hussars, so in the Jubilee list one is sickened with the repetition of Lieutenant-General This and Lieutenant-Colonel That, to the exclusion of men who have done something to move the world forward. For example, there are ninety-six C.B.’s in the list, of whom sixty-three bear military titles, five only appear to belong to the navy, and at least half the remainder appear to be attached to the Civil Service as administrators of departmental routine. Germany and the Germans are again everywhere. Not content with the German (and broken English) themselves, the Royal Family have proceeded to heap honours on all the German princes who flocked over to the celebration. The abnormal precedence over the older branch of the service in the giving of honours to the army is strictly in accordance with the best traditions of Germany.

The one bright feature, the one point in which there has been a departure from antiquated tradition, is the recognition of the Colonial Premiers. This is distinctly good. It is a beginning of a glimmer of the Imperial idea that is given to the world. The crowd on Jubilee day cheered the Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier with right good will because he had suffered something for the Empire. For the rest, the list might have been much more a mere ordinary birthday list. The millionaire steamship owner, the successful stockjobber, the provincial magistrate and the party hack who has fought a tough corner, all prominent enough in their own little world, the men who have had to bear the burden and the cost of making England intellectual mistress of the world there is the barest sprinkling. Probably the three most striking advances in the aspect of the civilized world since 1837 are the substitution of the iron (or rather steel) ship for the old wooden walls, the growth of electric communication by telegraph and telephone, and the advent of photography. All these are essentially the products of the Victorian era yet not one of them has received the smallest recognition in the Jubilee honours. Not a single naval architect appears in the list, though Sir John Burns, Sir Donald Currie, and Sir Thomas Sutherland—all of them previously betitled—have made money as directors of shipping companies, and are singled out for further distinctions. The claims of the electric telegraph and telephone, of the Royal Photographic Society, and of photography are ignored. Neither to Oxford nor to Cambridge has any contribution to electric science; but for photography, that essentially nineteenth-century product, have we not living amongst us Mr. Swan, the inventor of the incandescent electric vacuum lamp. Chemistry has received a share of recognition in the honours tardily given to Sir Edward Frankland and to Sir William Crookes; but where is Dr. Perkin, the inventor of the two industries of the nineteenth and pioneer of dry-plate processes? Yet these are passed over. Mr. Swan’s claims are particularly strong. He has been the foremost inventor of the incandescent electric vacuum lamp. Chemistry has received a share of recognition in the honours tardily given to Sir Edward Frankland and to Sir William Crookes; but where is Dr. Perkin, the inventor of the two industries of the nineteenth and pioneer of dry-plate processes? Yet these are passed over. Mr. Swan’s claims are particularly strong. He has been the foremost inventor of the incandescent electric vacuum lamp. Chemistry has received a share of recognition in the honours tardily given to Sir Edward Frankland and to Sir William Crookes; but where is Dr. Perkin, the inventor of the two industries of the nineteenth and pioneer of dry-plate processes? Yet these are passed over. Mr. Swan’s claims are particularly strong. He has been the foremost inventor of the incandescent electric vacuum lamp. Chemistry has received a share of recognition in the honours tardily given to Sir Edward Frankland and to Sir William Crookes; but where is Dr. Perkin, the inventor of the two industries of the nineteenth and pioneer of dry-plate processes? Yet these are passed over. Mr. Swan’s claims are particularly strong. He has been the foremost inventor of the incandescent electric vacuum lamp. Chemistry has received a share of recognition in the honours tardily given to Sir Edward Frankland and to Sir William Crookes; but where is Dr. Perkin, the inventor of the two industries of the nineteenth and pioneer of dry-plate processes? Yet these are passed over. Mr. Swan’s claims are particularly strong. He has been the foremost inventor of the incandescent electric vacuum lamp.
honour fallen. The University Colleges of the provincial towns—a purely Victorian growth of great and increasing intellectual importance—are treated as non-existent. The lack of imagination has triumphed over all that might have been.