

and the almost traitorous language held by public men as to the worthlessness of those invaluable sections of the empire.

Artful and selfish individuals, professing to instruct their fellow subjects in the the mysteries of political economy, have declared our colonies to be a burthen on the Home Exchequer:—I deny that assertion,—every colony in North America has a revenue adequate to all its wants, and under a system now in progress, provides a permanent civil list for the chief officers of the government: but I am entering on matter which I must reserve for my last volume, when, after exhibiting the vast extent of our transmarine empire, and demonstrating the financial condition, and political feelings of the colonists, I would fain hope, no man imbued with the principles which ought to actuate a true Briton, will hesitate to lend his aid for the further development of our colonial resources, at a moment when production so far outstrips consumption, and new markets are eagerly sought for.

I offer, in this volume, no opinions as to the propriety, or feasibility, of Elective Legislative Councils in our northern colonies; it is sufficient for me to adduce facts on which every impartial man may form his own judgment, and when the whole routine of our colonial policy is before him, he will then be better enabled to discuss the subject: but I cannot close this unavoidably brief introduction without earnestly entreating every Englishman to aid in compelling ministers to place bounds to American craftiness, and French aggrandisement, in the British dominions in North America. In particular I request the reader's attention to the Newfoundland chapter, where he will find facts so discreditable to our national honour, and so injurious to our nearest and dearest interests that I at first almost hesitated, whether I should