

every tropical colony—to struggle for its rights, perhaps even the liberties and lives of the individuals, with native rulers or new conquerors, or to clear out at a ruinous sacrifice of its possessions.

In addition to these moral reasons, and the political one that we should probably suffer seriously in prestige by retiring from such important colonies, and so involve ourselves in further troubles, we must not forget that nearly all of them—except the recently annexed Fiji group (and even Fiji pays its way)—are a source of considerable indirect gain.

It is true that neither they nor any other British colony pay anything directly to the British exchequer as tribute, except for a *quid pro quò* in the way of military or naval protection, but they all do a more or less appreciable trade with this country, amounting in the aggregate, for those I have included under Group VI., to nearly five millions per annum, that is, goods handled or made in this country (and in either case providing a wages fund for our artisans and labourers, as well as employing a large number of English ships and seamen), to the value of nearly five millions, are annually exported to these Crown Colonies; unless, therefore, for very stringent moral or political reasons—both of which I have endeavoured to show point the other way—we should certainly be wrong to do so ill a turn to our own overgrown population, as to wilfully give up all or any portion of this trade.

With this sixth group of possessions the first great division of our colonies closes.

Now in considering the important question of the material strength added to the Empire by its various parts, or their consolidation or federation into a world-wide Empire or Commonwealth, we must keep the distinction between this and the second division clear in our minds and treat of them separately.

In one sense, most of the Crown Colonies can never become a sure or permanent addition to the strength of the Empire, there is no probability that at any time within our view the mass of their inhabitants can be so intimately associated with the Anglo-Saxon race as to enable us to treat them as absolutely with us and of us, and to cease to maintain the extra military and naval establishments necessary to cope with an outbreak of rebellion. Singhalese, Tamils, Fijians, Negroes, and even most Half-castes, living as they do under vastly different conditions of climate, speaking different languages, and inheriting other traditions and peculiarities of colour