

direct brotherhood of citizenship with a third of the human race. It gives breadth as well as animation to his political ideas and international action. Ill becomes it any man, however philosophic, to disdain this sentiment, for it is one of practical influence in a nation's life. It affects even the relations of trade, and the courses of commerce: it has to do with the range of civic ambition, the growth or permanence of Imperial power. In the great play of national life there are motives other than selfishness and avarice. The forces awakened and put forth by Imperial energies are regenerative and invigorating. I do not see how it is possible to overcome that serious argument from the history of Empires, so well propounded by Mr. Herman Merivale, "Never has there yet been an instance in which a colonising nation can be shown to have deteriorated in population or wealth by reason of her efforts in that direction, however lavish and long continued."

Both Sir George Cornwall Lewis and Professor Goldwin Smith assert their doubt that the relation of colony to parent country has any influence on the currents of trade. Indeed, they concur in the opinion that the separation of the United States from Great Britain probably caused our trade with them to be far more profitable than if they had remained in connection with us—a proposition which is not only impossible of proof, but full of the most glaring improbability. With our remaining colonies, almost I believe without exception, our trade is greater per head of the population than with the Americans. We have, indeed, had the statement advanced and supported with great ability by Mr. Eddy that *trade follows the flag*. Nakedly, as a statement of principle, that may be an exaggerated statement, but as a description of a strong *tendency* it is true. It strikes me that the fact will be found to lie between the two extremes. If, on the one hand, the axiom so broadly stated is extravagant, on the other it is as unwise as it is unfair to overlook the fact that the channels of trade are frequently laid down upon national and political lines of association. Mr. Merivale has pointed out in his lectures that an influence is exercised on trade by the similar habits and associations of an identical nationality, and how in South America part of the Spanish and Portuguese trade was perpetuated, not by convenience, but by habit.

Adam Smith is referred to as an authority by all the writers who have propounded the theory that colonies are a weakness to the parent State. I shall close my reference to this subject, by briefly reviewing the actual language of the great political economist, for