

[PRICE TWOPENCE.]

FINANCIAL REFORM TRACTS.

Nos. 11 and 12.

SPEECH

OF

SIR WM. MOLESWORTH, BART., M.P.,

IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, ON TUESDAY, 25TH JULY, 1848,

ON

COLONIAL EXPENDITURE AND GOVERNMENT.

[Through the obliging permission of Sir William Molesworth, the Financial Reform Association are enabled to present, in an entire form, to their subscribers and the public generally, the important facts contained in his speech on Colonial expenditure, delivered in the House of Commons on the 25th July, 1848. So complete and searching an exposure of Colonial Administration, and of the net profits accruing to this country from her extended Colonial empire, ought to be in the hands of every elector throughout the kingdom, that each may determine for himself how far it is either wise or just to keep up an enormous armed force and most extravagant civil establishments, for no other purpose, ostensibly, than to foster and protect a commerce which would be established as certainly, and probably more rapidly and safely, were the Colonies to be self-governed, as many of them are able and desirous to be.]

SIR,—In submitting to the consideration of the House the motion of which I have given notice, I must entreat the indulgence of the House; for the nature and extent of the subject will compel me to trespass at some length upon its patience. My object is, in the first instance, to call the attention of the House to the amount of the colonial expenditure of the British empire; and in so doing, I shall endeavour to establish the following positions: 1st. That the colonial expenditure can be diminished without detriment to the interests of the empire; 2nd. That the system of colonial policy and government can be so amended, as to ensure more economical, and altogether better, government for the colonies. And lastly, that by these reforms the resources of the colonies would be developed, they would become more useful, and their inhabitants more attached to the British empire.

In speaking of colonies, I do not intend to include under that term