

THE COLONIES AND INDIA IN LONDON.

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Hon. Sir Charles Tupper, G. C. M. G., in the chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN :—

Long before the year 1886 it had been felt by thoughtful minds, both in Great Britain and throughout her vast and scattered dependencies, that if the Empire were ever to do justice to itself, something should be done to remove the ignorance prevailing in every constituent part of it concerning every other part. This ignorance has all along been mutual, but the mother country being concerned in knowing something about every individual dependency, her ignorance has been most reprehensible and the most disastrous. It seems, too, to have been actually cherished, and with a strange and scornful fatuity ; and it has been alike the cause of those cruel and wanton slights which have so often wounded Colonial sensibilities and affections, and of those terrible diplomatic blunders by which, on this continent, empires have been lightly flung away into the hands of our astute and grasping neighbors. It has existed all along, too, in quarters where duty should forbid it. Walpole tells us that when General Ligonier suggested to the Duke of Newcastle that Annapolis should be defended, the Duke lisped out :—"Annapolis, Annapolis. Oh, yes, Annapolis must be defended. To be sure, Annapolis should be defended. Where *is* Annapolis?" Smollett tells us that, in the beginning of the war, the Duke told somebody, in a great fright, that 30,000 French had marched from Acadia into Cape Breton. "Where did they find transports?" said his interlocutor. "I tell you they marched by land to Cape Breton—what, is Cape Breton an island?"