

who posed towards the close of his career as the very pillar of Imperialism, was at one time among those who had no very high opinion of the colonial connection. In 1852, whilst Chancellor of the Exchequer in Lord Derby's Ministry, he wrote to Lord Malmesbury, then Foreign Secretary, 'These wretched Colonies will all be independent in a few years, and are a millstone around our necks.' Some persons will probably say that the imaginative mind of the author of *The Wondrous Tale of Alroy* always found a greater attraction in the magnificent glamour of the Eastern Empire, than in the constitutional struggles of free communities like Canada. Be that as it may, there is every reason to believe that at the time Mr. Disraeli wrote these words, and in fact for some years later, British statesmen had no very clear conception of the value and importance of Colonies. They had constantly before them the fact that the defence of the Colonies involved a heavy annual expenditure, which though they could hardly explain it to the satisfaction of the tax-payer, was more than balanced by the prestige of a Colonial Empire. But no doubt much of the indifference felt for the colonial connection must be traced to the general conviction expressed in so many words by Mr. Disraeli, that the time must come when the Colonies would separate from England and become independent, as the natural outcome of the self-government conceded to them by the parent State.

[Lord Derby, who is certainly the last man in England to take a sentimental view of any question, gave expression quite recently to the change of mood with respect to the Colonial dependencies since the day Mr. Disraeli wrote the memorable words we have quoted. 'I do not believe,' he said on the 3rd of March last, 'that at this time, or for twenty years past, any man has looked upon the Colonies as a burthen to the Empire, or that it was desirable that any of them should secede.'] It is not necessary, to go into any elaborate argument to prove that prosperous countries like the Dominion of Canada, or the Colonies of Australia, can no longer be fairly considered millstones around the neck of England. If a British regiment is still sent to Canada, it is simply because it is necessary to make a show of British sovereignty. If British men of war still visit Canadian ports, it is because England must keep her sailors employed. Canada