

PREFACE.

QUESTIONS of colonial policy and of colonial empire have recently occupied the attention of public men in England more than at any previous time. This has been shown by discussions in Parliament and in the press, and by the Reports of Committees of the House of Commons.

Some of the topics brought most prominently into view have been the cost, defence, and advantages or disadvantages of colonies, the commercial policy of the chief dependencies of the Empire, as at variance with that of England, the relations which those great Commonwealths now sustain towards this country and towards each other, and what changes, if any, should be effected in such relations.

The interest so generally shown in questions of such importance to the various members of the Empire has suggested this treatise.

A brief sketch is given of the chief colonial Empires of ancient and modern times with reference to the civil and commercial policy of the parent States,