

changes will lead, and the erroneous views being circulated as to their effects upon our present happy colonial relations.

The first point which naturally suggests itself is: Why all this agitation to change the Constitution and commercial policy of the Empire at the present time? The Monarchy has been immensely successful. Under its motto of "Free Trade and Colonial Freedom," its ships, colonies, and commerce have grown with a rapidity previously unexampled. The volume of its commerce for 1903, \$4,896,259,708, is without a parallel in the world's history. No other power, not even the United States, has ever approached near it. So wealthy has the nation become, that over £211,156,000 (according to Hasell's), were spent on the Boer war without scarcely being felt, and the history of that sanguinary struggle proved the strength of the Empire and the loyalty of the colonies in the most striking and effective manner.

So far as Canada is concerned, it was never more attached to Great Britain than now. This is not inconsistent with the fact that no true Canadian places the Empire first and the Dominion second. He naturally considers that his foremost obligations of duty and affection are due to his own magnificent land, Canada, and that it is the highest and truest patriotism to give its interests and welfare the first consideration. Next to our own land, however, it is true that Canadians were never more attached than at present to Great Britain, with its noble record on behalf of Christianity, civilisation and liberty, and so general are these feelings of loyalty among all classes that the annexationist has become nearly as extinct as the dodo.

It is at such a time as this, when under free trade and colonial freedom, the Motherland and the colonies have become the greatest of modern nations—when the Boer War has proven their solidarity by ties stronger than any legislative bonds—that it is seriously proposed to rush into constitutional and commercial changes at once radical and uncertain. It is safe to say, that at no previous period in its history was the Empire stronger and more united, and it is simply amazing that any leading British statesman could be found to light the fires of agitation to overthrow the very political system and fiscal policy under which such grand national results have been achieved.

At the great meeting held in London on November 24 last, the Duke of Devonshire said that these proposals "emanated from the brain of one eminent statesman." This is undoubtedly true. The Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain is the head and front of the whole agitation, and it is impossible to withhold our admiration of the great ability, the daring courage, and the unrivalled energy and tact which he has devoted to his task.

His political opponents assail his motives. Some profess to see in his movement proof of Gladstone's jibe that he is a British statesman with American methods: others that he left the Balfour Ministry in order to escape the sinking ship; and still others that he seeks to create an Imperialistic wave upon which he may float to the pinnacle of his ambition—the Premiership of Great Britain—and thus put a brilliant finish to a notable career.