

have had to dispel their ignorance, direct their energies, and fit them for self-government; and, therefore, now that England has resolved to discharge her duty to the masses, even the self-complacent conceit of some of her public men might learn some lessons from the sturdy stripling who has shot up to manhood to the north of the St. Lawrence and the lakes. The insular position of the United Kingdom, and its historical triumphs, have not been without countervailing disadvantages. It is not so long since Englishmen looked upon the continental nations much as they regard the colonies now; to be a foreigner was much the same as being a barbarian in the old Greek sense. The advantages of a closer relationship between Great Britain and her colonies would be reciprocal, and a healthy interchange of ideas, sympathies, and aspirations would infuse new blood into the Empire, and, by quickening its circulation, impart renewed life and vigor to the whole.

Lord Blachford tells us that in the constitutionally governed colonies, the very name of Empire is an empty form (p. 361). No doubt this is the case: but here he heals the skin, without probing the sore. The subject of colonial complaint is the very fact to which his lordship alludes; but in presenting his alternative between separation and federation, he prefers the former, whilst Canadians and Australasians desire the latter. It is not necessary to consider here what position Britain would occupy amongst the nations if she were shorn of her colonies; but it is a noticeable fact that although the slightest whisper of danger to her supremacy in India stirs the English nation to its depths, public men can talk as lightly about flinging away the colonies, peopled mainly by their own fellow-countrymen, as the French philosopher did about Louis XV.'s 'arpençs of snow' on the St. Lawrence. There seems to be a want of foresight and prescience in high places at home, at which we can only marvel in hopeless and helpless silence. Within twenty-four hours of the panic which was followed by the Franco-German war, Mr. (now Lord) Hammond, Permanent Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, remarked to his new chief, Earl Granville, that 'in all his experience he had never known so great a lull in foreign affairs.' It now appears that the Colonial office is also purblind—the slave of routine and pre-

cedent—without a thought or an idea about the morrows that are yet to be. His Lordship asks what interest we have in the command of the Mediterranean, the road to India, or the balance of power? &c., (p. 363), and even goes so far as to deny Canadians any concern in the Trent affair, with all its possible risks and dangers. It may be replied to all this that we take an interest, and—what is more than can be said of the mass of Englishmen—an intelligent interest, in all that affects the Empire to which we belong, and to the great family of nations growing ever closer and closer together as the years roll by. Australia is as materially concerned in the Eastern question as England, and Canada, with a Russian fleet in her Atlantic or Pacific waters, would hardly be a merely curious spectator. We have a neighbour at our doors, who looks upon the Czar as his natural ally, and may some day be found an effective one. A European war deprived England of the thirteen colonies; another gave the Americans an opportunity of assailing Britain and invading Canada; and similar events, on a larger and more terrible scale, may await England and her North American Dominion in the future. The red-tapist remedy is the cowardly one of sending a loyal colony adrift to be the easy prey of the buccaneers to the south of it; honour and patriotism demand a more intimate bond between parent and child, a solidarity of interests, an intimate union in all that concerns the common welfare of the Imperial household. The one would leave its offspring as a foundling on the door-step of a neighbour; the other would rear and cherish it beneath the good old family roof-tree. On another occasion, the machinery required under the Federal system may command our attention. This branch of the subject appears to be the great stumbling-block in its way. Lord Blachford does not deal with it so fully as might have been expected. Notwithstanding his great experience, the native vigour of his mind, and the unquestionable power with which he wields his pen, the ex-Under-Secretary's paper is eminently disappointing. The vista opened up by anticipations of the future, too soon approaches the vanishing-point where all that is not confused becomes infinitesimally minute. The principles and practice of the hour are