

rests, but the interests of the poorer classes of our brethren in England and in the United Kingdom generally.

The proposition I would maintain is this; that, as things now stand, it is the duty of the Imperial Government to hold these Provinces a Dependency, defending it in case of invasion, if need be; because, as such, it is necessary as an asylum for the poorer classes that require, from want of employment or other causes at home, to immigrate hither. I say the duty of the Imperial Government, because it is a moral agent and not merely a combination of powers to advance the views which a particular school of politicians may hold in regard to the material interests of the state. When a nation founds colonies, it is not entirely a question of expenditure, whether they should be abandoned. There are moral considerations that can only be overlooked by those who hold the national honor too cheap, and the moral progress of dependent countries at too low an estimation. But the English Government stands, as it has long stood, pre-eminent for the degree in which it has realized the highest conception of what a state ought to be; and it is incredible that such a Government should inflict, by the act in question, I shall not say an injustice, but what would be an excessive hardship, upon a large portion of the poorer classes of Her Majesty's subjects, the precluding them from the possibility of settling in another part of the empire where they have the right to settle, and free from odious distinctions and painful constructions.