

which Sir Charles Dilke nowhere deals. The commercial unity of the Empire, having been completely broken up, the Mother Country having resigned every vestige of political power, and nothing really remaining but mutual liabilities perilous to both parties, what is the use of the present political connection? This we say is a problem with which Sir Charles neglects to deal. He incidentally glances at certain advantages, such as the resort of wealthy Colonists to the Mother Country, and the political service which the Colonies render the Mother Country by trying for her experiments in democracy. But the first, if it is a gain to the Mother Country, is a loss socially and politically as well as financially to the Colonies and as to the second, the Mother Country, a land of factory hands, farm labourers, and Irish peasantry, had better take care how she follows the political lead of colonial democracies in which intelligence is general and property is widely diffused.

It is impossible to read one of these "Greater Britains" or promiscuous surveys of the British Empire without noting the fallacy which they all involve. The Hindoos are not "Britons," nor are the negroes of the West Indies, or the French of Canada. On the other hand, a self-governing and virtually independent Colony is most improperly designated as a part of an Empire, an Empire being a centralized dominion. An ancient European Kingdom, cast in a monarchical and aristocratic world; a number of young democracies in America, in the Pacific, or in South Africa; a vast Empire peopled with Asiatics totally ignorant and incapable of self-government; a group of tropical islands inhabited by negroes;—who can believe that all these have a common interest and a common destiny, or that you can secure their ultimate cohesion by casting over them the drag-net of a fallacious name?

—It can hardly be supposed that the Ontario Government will allow the Public Schools to be used for the purpose of indoctrinating the children with anti-Continental sentiment