

"aut cadentis Imperii, the cardinal principle of imperial policy." (p. 46). "The principle, which DURHAM inaugurated [in Canada, is] "of leaving self-governing colonies to assume whatever powers "they might *finally insist*¹ upon taking." (p. 64).

That principle once established, "independence was regarded "as the *necessary goal* of colonial self-government" (p. 51.) — "It "is by their own free will that they [the colonies] have remained "within the circle of this Commonwealth..." (p. 73.) — "Each "Dominion is severally free to manage and settle such matters for "itself, provided that its people are willing to abandon their status "as British citizens. *That is a question which they can and must "decide for themselves.*" (p. 136). — "It is open at any moment for "Dominion electors through their representatives to instruct their "own governments to assume responsibility for the issues of peace "and war, because the thing can be done by a stroke of the pen — "by a simple notification to all foreign capitals as well as to London." (p. 242.)

In 1883, Queensland annexed New Guinea. In 1910, New Zealand tried to shut her ports to all merchantmen from abroad, British as well as foreign. Those ultra-imperial performances were disallowed by the Imperial government. "Had the Queensland "and New Zealand governments insisted on the right to annex "territories", or to control sea-trade coming to their ports, they had only to notify to foreign powers "their independence of the British "Commonwealth" (p. 79.)

Military obligations of the Dominions

From the fact that the self-governing Dominions have of their own free will remained in the Empire, Mr. CURTIS draws the argument that they have a common interest in its general defence: "an attack made upon one is an attack made upon them all" (p. 73.) But he frankly admits that the British government has, on several instances, acknowledged its exclusive obligation to defend every portion of the Empire, while "no correlative declaration was "ever demanded from the self-governing Dominions.... The "matter, in a word, has never become the subject of bargain or

¹ In italics in the text.