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## IMPERIAL AND COLONIAL RESPONSIBILITIES IN WAR.

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IN 1878 I had the honour to address this Institute on the subject of "Colonial Defence." As the remarks I am about to offer as a basis for discussion here and in the Colonies are but a continuation of that paper, I must briefly refer to general views and principles it formulated. It is necessary to do so for the reason that they were honoured by great consideration at the hands of the Colonial Press. One of the chief objects of this Institute is to bring to a focus Colonial opinions, so that national shortsightedness at home may have the assistance of Imperial spectacles; and therefore as one of its Fellows, I shall best fulfil my duty by submitting to special notice such views and arguments as are adverse to those put forth in that paper, omitting for the present, all reference to still more numerous expressions of cordial approval.

In a matter of such weighty importance as Imperial Defence, the main question at issue is this: How to secure with economy, yet truly and efficiently, Imperial safety? When any solution of that great problem is suggested—and I grieve to say no one besides myself has as ever yet considered the question as one great whole—more attention should be paid to arguments calmly and deliberately urged against its adoption, than to any outburst of sentiment, however general, which advocates its off-hand acceptance. War sweeps away all "castles in the air," all false sentiment, and leaves nothing standing but bare, naked facts. It crumbles to dust false ideas and false hopes, and consolidates the power of one Empire by scattering to the winds the fanciful delusions of another. Therefore in considering questions relating to defence, it is most important not to trust sentiment too far, but to weigh calmly and carefully practical arguments.

The paper to which I refer was a sketch of our Imperial position, the dangers to which it is exposed, and the strategical operations necessary for its safety. It may thus be briefly epitomised:—

- (1) It brought to view the fallacy that Colonial Defence can be considered as an abstract question, or that national defence can be limited in its meaning to the defence of the United Kingdom.

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