

it is not the wish of the British people, that those relations should be suddenly severed. The wish of all must be, that, even when that severance comes, there should be the closest union between the two countries. Therefore I have great pleasure in seconding the resolution, while expressing the hope that the same kindly feelings may continue between the colonies and the mother country which have existed in the past. (Cheers.)

The resolution was then put by the Chairman, and carried *nem. con.*

MR. SCHOLEFIELD, M.P. :—Before we separate, there is one duty which we have to perform, and that is, to thank our excellent friend in the chair, not only for his services to-day, but for what he has done for this Association. If this society has been useful, if it is destined to be more useful, which I fully believe it will be, mainly through the skill and ability, and the constant services of my excellent friend in the chair (hear), I cannot speak too highly of those services. I have not been associated with him in those labours, but I know what he has been doing. I am sure I shall have the unanimous voice of this meeting, in proposing that its cordial thanks be given to the Chairman for the valuable services which he has given to this Association. (Cheers.)

MR. WATKIN :—I beg most cordially to second the resolution, for I have had an opportunity of observing his great zeal, and the disposition he has shown to preserve and bind together the interests of the mother country and her dependencies, at a time when such a course was especially prudent. For that, I think he deserves and is entitled to our best and deepest thanks. (Hear.) I think, and I hope the great bulk of the people think, that the time is far distant when there shall be any disintegration of that great mass of territory and power which is popularly known as the British empire. I think the feeling of the people of this country at large is to preserve, in every possible manner, the solidarity of the British empire. It is no matter of mean presence ; it is a matter of honest pride to think that