

people of any one colony, through their Local Legislature, for Imperial representation. If one colonial dependency considers it necessary and advantageous, let them put forward their claim on their own behalf. The claim of the members for Ireland to a seat and vote on all questions in the Imperial Parliament has been admitted by the House of Commons, and the people in the Colonies, being now in the same relative position to the Empire in which it was the intention of the Home Rule Bill to place the people of Ireland, a similar claim by them could not consistently be refused, especially when their claim would be for but a few seats each, while Ireland was allowed eighty. So far, no alteration in the United Kingdom has been effected. The action has been a reconnaissance in force, but the Colonies should now claim that, as part of the Empire, they should have a voice in these proposed alterations on the re-construction of the Government under which they live.

Any self-governing colony should be allowed the right to be represented in the Imperial Parliament. There is no necessity to wait for all the British possessions at the same time to assent to the same measure. To one who has passed from colony to colony, the distance seems so short, the commercial advantages from political union so great, and the very thought of rivalry or antagonism unbearable.

We have in the preceding chapters shown: First, how a natural change of thought as to the ultimate destination of the British Empire came in with a change of circumstances, which led and is leading still more to the closest intercourse between people, who may in distance be farthest apart. Second, the rise of the maritime power of England accelerated, if not occasioned by the sudden call upon our forefathers, to defend themselves on the sea, which led to the building of a fleet suitable for voyage and discovery, and to the evolution of a spirit in the people which led them seaward with the force of a crusade to discover and possess. Third, that the discussion on the separation of the Australian continent into separate dependencies during the debate in the New South Wales Legislature led to the unfolding of the two great principles of (1) LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND SELF-CONTROL OF LOCAL AFFAIRS, AND (2) UNION OF THE EMPIRE BY POPULAR REPRESENTATION IN THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT—and currently the establishment of the