

from it; and while the Colonists who have most fully entered into it evince increasing vigour, and attachment to the Sovereign, what Englishman will be hardy enough to predicate, or try to precipitate, its failure?

To Lord Granville I beg to say *I pede fausto*, while he firmly yet temperately embodies in action the sentiments of his present Chief, as expressed in the debate on the second reading of the New Zealand Constitution Bill, and in his evidence before the Committee of 1865 (see p. 135). But whether he does so or not, I have a firm faith in the future of this great empire, now that its spirit of self-administration is freed from central interference beyond the reach of recall.

I have, at any rate, to the best of my power, given to the public the result of many years of study and occupation connected with the subject of colonial government, in hopes of contributing something to the recognition of its true principles, which seem to me of the most vital interest to all classes of my countrymen; and a historical sketch, up to this year (1869), of the condition of every Colony and Station of the British Empire.