

Aborigines Protection Society), Sir W. Drake, K.C.B., Sir Richard Wilbraham, K.C.B., A. Mackie, Esq., Dr. Sayle, Mr. B. Irvine, C.B., Mr. A. L. Haliburton, C.B., Dr. Leitner, Mr. James Watson, Major Alexander Monereiff, C.B., and others.

Letters were read from Mr. Alderman McArthur, M.P., the Right Hon. H. C. C. Childers, Mr. Macfee (late member for Leith), and Mr. J. A. Froude, cordially sympathising with the object of the dinner. A letter was also subsequently received by the guest of the evening from Lord George Hamilton, who it was expected would have presided, in which he explained that there was some misunderstanding on the subject between himself and the committee. His Lordship writes :—
“ We have been associated together for some years past on one or two objects. Your work is bearing good fruit in the various schemes of confederation which are in different parts of the Colonial Empire springing up, and I was therefore all the more annoyed to find that from a misunderstanding, for which I cannot account, my unavoidable absence from the post I was expected to take would seem to many a slight upon the very man I was anxious to honour.”

The Chairman, after proposing “The Queen,” gave the health of “Mr. Haliburton,” and referred to his connection with Colonial questions, and, above all, the important one of the Unity of the Empire.

Mr. Haliburton referred in a very happy manner to several veteran advocates of the interests of the Colonies who were then present, and who had been the pioneers in the movement against the disintegration clique that was for a time threatening to break up the Empire by stealth. Among these friends of the Colonies were Mr. Jenkins, Capt. Bedford Pim, Mr. Chesson, Mr. Rivington, Mr. McArthur, and others. The policy of that disintegration clique, mainly composed of permanent officials and their associates, was avowedly to “confederate the Colonies and to let them go.” We still adhere to this policy of confederation, but the people of England have repudiated the policy of “weaning the Colonies” so soon as they are confederated. He gave a sketch of the rise of confederation in 1865, the honours