

might still, in her isolation, be regarded as the mother of nations, and be treated with all courtesy and respect. The Empire would be gone but, if secure of the chivalrous support of the outlying Provinces, the Islands might be safe.

But let us borrow again the stern lessons of History. Did the Thirteen Colonies cease to chew the old roots of bitterness? Did they turn to Old England, as a lady turns to her mother after an elopement, when she is married and settled and all is forgotten and forgiven? Is it not almost incredible with what persistent suspicion and mistrust every movement of the Imperial Government has been regarded in that country ever since the recognition of its Independence? Have the people of the United States ever been without a grievance? Has not their diplomacy been most aggressive? Did they not fall upon the rear of England in 1812, when her front was presented to the powerful armies and skilful European organization of the first Napoleon? Were not their sympathizers flung across our frontiers during the political disturbances of Canada in 1837? Was not their whole moral support given to Russia during the Crimean War? Were we not, last year, openly insulted and defied, and only saved from the cost of another conflict by the vigour of the British Cabinet, the divided condition of their country, and the pre-occupation of their forces by land and sea? Does not every organ of public opinion in the Northern States come to us by every mail charged with menace and hostility to England? What have we gained, then, by the Independence of the United States, that should induce us to train the Colonies that remain to follow their example and prepare for separation? Is it not clear that, under the system you advocate, the old Thirteen Colonies maintained a doubtful allegiance to this country? Is it not also equally clear that the troops they trained, when the struggle came, were, to a man, enemies to the British Crown? And is it not painfully apparent that, as the results of the system you advocate, the Mother Country lost all the advantage of her early colonization, and trained rich and flourishing communities to regard her with feelings of hostility more implacable and undying than those which her government is called to confront in any other part of the world.

I am truly amazed that a gentleman of your keenness of perception and great political experience, can be so self-deceived as to press, at this time of day, the adoption of a policy that, in every aspect in which we view it, has proved so disastrous.

Let us examine it in relation to finance. The cost of the first American War was £104,681,218, simple interest at 3 per cent. on this sum would amount to £240,021,996. £50,000,000 were spent in the Second American War. The interest from 1815 to 1862 would be £117,500,000. Here we have then, in round numbers, the enormous sum of £616,784,432 which Great Britain has lost by training Colonies in the mode which you recommend. Even if this country had assumed the task of defending the old colonial frontiers, of beating off the French, and occasionally chastising the Indians, enormous sums of money might have been saved. It is, perhaps, vain to speculate, at this late period, as to what might have been the