

land. Scientific bodies, like the British Association and the learned societies of England, do not treat colonists as foreign members. They assign to them the same rights and duties as if they resided in the British Islands, evidencing in this way a truly imperial spirit in regard to the dependencies of the British Crown ;—a spirit which would repudiate the Greek or Chinese policy of keeping colonies at a distance until they become strong enough to give trouble, and then casting them off, and would adopt instead the Roman principle of universal citizenship of the empire, extending over all its dependencies throughout the world.

This digression leads me to glance next at the Section of Geography and Ethnology, under the presidency of Sir Henry Rawlinson, the decipherer of the Nineveh inscriptions, and a courteous and amiable man. This is one of the most popular of the sections. Its stirring narratives of foreign travel in the central deserts of Asia, and in unexplored regions of Africa, attract all hearers ; and the presence of the men actually engaged in these adventurous expeditions, increases the attraction. At the late meeting there were interesting communications as to the discovery, by Mr. Baker, of additional sources of the Nile, beside those made known by Speke, an exhibition of large paintings of the remarkable Victoria Falls on the Zambesi, and interesting discussions as to the proposed Palestine exploring expedition, and the expediency of another expedition with the view of reaching the North Pole.

A curious and somewhat disturbing element in this section is the presence of the anthropologists, as they call themselves, a small but active body of scientific men, who have established a society in London with the view of studying the natural history of man. The object is, no doubt, good ; but, unfortunately, it necessarily becomes mixed up with discussions about the unity of the human race, the probable descent of men from apes, and many other questionable subjects, which repel prudent and conscientious men, and are attractive to people who are eminent in nothing but in differing from other sensible persons. But the anthropologists are ambitious. They publish a journal, and they desiderate a separate section of the British Association. This was declined at the opening meeting of this year, but a compromise was entered into, and the greater part of the papers were handed over to the Geographical Section, coming under the head of ethnology. A very elaborate paper of this class was one by Mr. Crawford on the