

appellate jurisdiction of the British Privy Council, and the power of the crown, as the fountain of honour, to bestow the titles which colonial politicians prize, and by which their conformity to Imperial policy is subtly secured. The Imperial Government has a constitutional power of vetoing colonial legislation, but this is almost a dead letter except in cases in which colonial legislation directly conflicts with Imperial laws or interests. The colonial constitutions are, in form, Imperial Acts of Parliament, but they have been really framed in the several colonies, and only at the instance of the colonies would they be changed. - Canada has practically asserted even diplomatic independence, though under the wing of the British Foreign Office, in cases where her own interests are alone or specially concerned.

In the account of financial profit and loss between the Imperial country and the colonies the balance has been clearly shown, and is generally admitted, to be immensely against the mother country. It is doubtful whether the balance would be on the right side even in the case of the Indian Empire, when the expenses of defending the access to it were taken into account. It must be debited with a large share of the cost of the Crimean war, as well as with standing enmity to Russia and with the moral responsibility of upholding the execrable rule of the Turk. Money is made, perhaps, out of dependencies by great capitalists who handle their products, as well as by officials who earn salaries by the administration ; but the nation at large gains nothing by the political dominion which it would not gain by independent trade.

To the toiling and suffering masses the profits of Empire are not great. The hideous expanse of squalid misery in and around Naples has not been lessened by the acquisition of dominion in Abyssinia, while the price of necessities has been cruelly raised by the