

fellow-countrymen on the other side of the Atlantic and on the Southern Seas. For this question it is immaterial where they go, provided they remain under the flag of this country, which has been, and I trust will continue to be for years, the emblem under which Christianity, peace, and civilisation will be spread throughout the world. Of course, Provost, it is natural that colonist as I am—though I am also a Scotchman: I do not mean to give it up—as a colonial Scotchman, perhaps, to put it in that way—it is natural that I should feel strongly, if a doubt entered into my mind for a moment that my fellow-subjects here do not share the feelings that I have in regard to the mutual advantages that will flow from the extension of our common rights and our common empire. It is natural, I say, that I should feel strongly on that point, and that I should indulge in suggestions more or less vague, more or less in the future, in regard to what may be done; and I do claim, on behalf of the colonial empire, that statesmen in this country, that you gentlemen who are concerned in the business of this country, should give your thought and consideration to such points as I have put before you this afternoon; that you will consider whether your own interests, apart from the grandeur of the empire itself, whether your own interests will not be best served by taking care that this great empire does not drift back again into those divided elements out of which the genius and heroism of its sons, and especially of its Scotch sons, have done so much to bring it together.