

mused upon the boundless field of labour your Lordship was about to enter—the herculean tasks which lay every where around you—the onerous cares, which, as First Minister of the Crown, you were called upon to assume, and I felt that a man so placed, was not only entitled to hear the kindly “God speed” of the colonist, but to have the benefit of every ray of light that might guide him on his way.

When legislating for the Mother Country, your Lordship has the aid of Representatives and Colleagues from every portion of the three kingdoms. No English interest can be overlooked, because every section of the country can hold constant communication with the Cabinet, through Parliamentary or other agents. Scotchmen convey to the Councils of their Sovereign, and infuse into the discussions of the Legislature, the facts, impressions, and even prejudices, without a knowledge of which there can be no successful statesmanship; and even Ireland, unequal and unjust as her portion of Parliamentary and Executive influence is, has yet a share. Her voice, even when disregarded, is still heard; 105 members enforce her opinions in Parliament—able pens discuss questions which concern her in every part of the kingdom; and her national associations, and the ceaseless activity of her selected leaders, make her voice authoritative, if not potential, in each crisis of affairs. To deal wisely with countries so situated, though often perplexing, is not impracticable: there is a fulness of information—an ever swelling or receding stream of public sentiment, and an abundance of fellow-labourers, to enable a prudent statesman to correct his reckoning and steer his course. To the mariner within soundings, the headlands are a guide, and the lead conveys every moment its assurance or its warning—but the seaman who embarks on an ocean voyage, excites our fears by the comparative paucity of his resources not less than by the perils of his way.