

*An ADDRESS delivered in the TONTINE HOTEL, GREENOCK,  
on 29th January, 1883.*

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PROVOST WILSON in the Chair.

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Sir ALEXANDER GALT, after some introductory remarks, said:—Provost Wilson and gentlemen,—I am not going to repeat the speech I made in Edinburgh; but when I spoke there it was in the knowledge that I should have an opportunity of saying a few words on this occasion, and therefore one or two points that I might have elaborated more fully in speaking upon the great question of the United Kingdom and our colonies I shall now be able to speak upon in a more detailed way than I then did. You will recollect that it is only a few days since representatives of the self-governing colonies had the honour of a formal reception for the first time by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Lord Derby, who received us in our character as representing the colonies that were to a certain extent not dependent upon the Colonial Office, but dependent upon the will of the people they represented. There was one expression that fell from Lord Derby that certainly imprinted itself upon my mind. Speaking of the future of the empire, he said that he believed that its greatness would be found in the development of its colonial possessions, rather than in the interest it might feel in European affairs. Now, we all know that Lord Derby has a very high reputation as a statesman; but I think he is perhaps more than almost any other man in Parliament a representative of the sound common sense of this country. And in that character I do think that he spoke the feelings of the great bulk of the people of this country when he said