

done itself honour by calm, statesmanlike addresses, which will convince the Colonies that it is unwise to indulge in raving abuse when there are grave questions to be solved—not in hatred or ill-will, or even in coolness of relationship: but in a manner suitable to the progress, the new doctrines, the perfectly novel duties that self-government has developed.

What is a colony? The question has yet to be determined. A colony is not a mere "plantation" in the sense which Bacon describes, a thing to regard like a child whose habitation has to be built, whose food has to be provided, whose government has to be controlled. It is not simply a state such as that described by Charles Buller in his masterly speech on systematic colonisation, "that must contain some at least of all the elements that go to make up home in England." Nor is a colony "a vast tract of fertile desert" entailing a heavy cost for the honour of empire, such as Sir William Molesworth used to denounce, but which, had he lived, he would doubtless have admired and honoured, and helped well and wisely to govern. The colonies, as a whole, have grown mightily since his time. We now have different views of their importance and influence; hold to stern duties as to their government; and recognise an ever-widening force as to their future power, their relations with England and other countries the wide world over. What, then, is a colony? It is not a dependency to be helped in some senses, checked in others, but controlled in all its highest and most important operations. A colony is a state holding together the most restless, determined, vigorous men of our times. Each expedition that has left these shores has