

with us, like the Chinese, or in any other way infringing the great principles of Imperial policy. The whole subject must, before very long, force itself on the attention of Parliament, for the evils which we have pointed out are not of a stationary nature, but must go on in a progressive ratio, extending and increasing their baneful influence."

Ten years have passed. Protective duties have been imposed. Secretaries of State have not intervened. They have left the veto unused when they ought to have used it, and have sometimes intervened when they ought not to have done it. The subject cannot be said to have *forced itself* on the attention of Parliament. We have gone on in the usual British happy-go-lucky way. Discontent has increased. We have heard the whisper of independence across the seas. Immigration has actually been by some colonies discouraged, not in the interest of the immigrants, but of local trades-unions. The Imperial Parliament has become choked with legislative subjects ranging from the Confederation of the Canadian Empire, to the prescription, in legal language, of the size, shape, and colour of the penny bottles in which small apothecaries are to vend their drugs. Parliamentary respiration has ceased—utterance is stopped—even digestion is impeded—and political doctors are anxiously holding glasses and feathers to the nose for signs of life. All this while we, the people of the Empire, with all these momentous questions, have quietly drifted into seas the anchorage and fathoms whereof are not laid down in any authentic political chart. The captain meanwhile has resolved to take no bearings, and has thrown the compasses overboard.

"O Navis! referent in mare te novi
 Fluctus. O quid agis! fortiter occupa
 Portum. Nonne vides ut
 Nudum remigio latus
 Et malus celeri saucius Africo
 Antennæque gemant? ac sine funibus
 Vix durare cunctis
 Possint imperiosius
 Æquor?"

I see the terrible end of this drifting policy! One by one our colonies will drop away from us—drop away on conditions that may render confederation as hopeless as it now is with the United States, to any but sentimental dreamers. They may go before they are matured for independence, become the prey of internal disorders, and probably be attached, by choice or otherwise, to some people more wise and noble in their generation than we.