

gracious Sovereign, by exerting every effort within my limited power and circumscribed means to advocate the interests of the transmarine Possessions of England, and to make the condition, the wants and the sentiments of upwards of one hundred million of British subjects known at the seat of government. In truth I declare, that I much wish the task had fallen to the lot of some more favoured individual;—not that I shrunk from the difficulty of keeping up the unremitting toil of days—weeks—months, and I may add, years; but because I found how impossible it was to steer clear of party feelings and selfish interests, without expressing in strong language opinions on either adverse side; I fear that on some occasions I may have used too harsh expressions while advocating the rights of the Colonists, but any passages liable to the charge have been carefully expunged in the present edition, and such alterations made as a more matured judgment, and a calmer tone of thought may have suggested.

I may be in error as to the mercantile value and political importance of our transmarine possessions,—if so it is an error unbiassed by private considerations; for I possess no interest territorially or pecuniary in any colony—I am not engaged in commerce—I hold no Government office—I have received no Government aid, nor have I procured the patronage of any individual or association—but looking only to public support and approbation, I have tasked my understanding in vain to find out wherein the alleged error lies,—and the reader will find in my '*Colonial Policy*' the arguments put forth against colonies, fairly met and impartially considered apart from the abuses to which the best institutions are liable.

In reference to the observation of lighter matters being