

strengthen the hands of the party of separation. Has there been any such grave instance of misgovernment or any withholding of a proper measure of power from any colony, or the exercise over it or on any of its people of undue authority on the part of the Colonial-office, as to call for a fundamental reconstruction of their relations? Is not the complaint, on the contrary, rather that they have been left too much to themselves? It is surely premature, in the absence of any overruling and immediate necessity, to ask for the overthrow of the existing system, not in view of grievances to be redressed, but merely as an experiment, with no abuse calling for reform.

Our duty now I conceive to be to assert more emphatically than we have been doing of late, the principle of maintaining inviolate the unity of the empire—to discountenance opposite views, and to mould all our policy in accordance with that conception; to remove any fears which exist in England with reference to the danger resulting from the possession of any colony; to ascertain with as much precision as possible the real extent of burdens they severally entail; to get rid of the idea of the supposed readiness of the colonies to palm these burdens on England, and of their unwillingness from time to time to revise the relations or place them on a footing which shall be just to both; and to dispel the idea that Colonial Governments are ready to enter into commercial treaties with foreign Powers adverse to English interests. There is need that the colonists should be disabused of the impression that there exists on the part of England a desire to throw them off. The appearance of unrequited love, with communities as with individuals, sometimes leads to unreasonable resentment. I say unreasonable resentment, because it is not fitting that the popular discussions of the colonial relations at the present day should, in the minds of colonists, efface the declarations of men who were, and some