

## SUGGESTIONS

FOR

# COLONIAL REFORM.

---

THE war in New Zealand not yet brought to a close, the backwardness of Canada in answering England's call to arms, the insolent claim of the elder Australian colonies to interfere between the mother-country and West Australia, the ecclesiastical differences at Natal, and last, but not least, the scheme for a union of the British American colonies, naturally direct attention to the relations between the mother-country and the Colonies.\*

It cannot be said that those relations are well understood, or that they stand on a satisfactory footing.

A parallel to the case of New Zealand at the beginning of the late war will be found by imagining for a moment that Ireland were a dependency of France, and France ever willing to pour troops into Ireland on the suggestion of a quarrel having arisen between Protestants and Papists. How many little Irish wars would not France have on her hands! Each little war would transfer a slice of confiscated land from a Protestant owner to his Papist neighbour, and, in addition, the latter would gain not a little by

Attention at the present moment naturally directed to relations between the mother-country and the Colonies.

Those relations unsatisfactory.

Illustration of case of New Zealand.

\* The observations in the following pages are not intended to apply to the British dominions in India, to Gibraltar, Malta, or other dependencies held for military or other special purposes.