

Cith Worekly Tritish Goulanist
Wednesday, September 21, 1870
The Future of the British Empire.
Such is the subject of a most able
and interesting paper in the July num-
ber of the Westminster Review. The
article opens thus: : To $\boldsymbol{P}$
To be, or not to be the ques-
tion whicb, in a wider sense than Hamlet's,
thie great nation is vow patting to itself ceas-
orning ite own imperial existence. Shall
the British Empire contince to be a term
applioable to a world-wide system of terri-
tories and States, or shall it apply merely to
$\square$
$\square$
been built up by means of so much individ-
gphere of political influence a
life, larger than has fallen to the other people, perish
meat ? Shall Eeglan
$\qquad$
States? These are questions which
sre as well worth consideration
many otheratopics of more popular i
bet of far leas gravity aud signifien
$\qquad$
$\qquad$
distinctive national greanness. Com-
blest and most extensive of all Her
Majesty's vast possersions, he shows in
1850 the import trade amounted to
had risen to fitty-six millions. Daring
the same period the exports rose from
eighteen to sixty eight millions, and the
value of British manufactures consumed
by its popalation rose from seven and
half millions to twenty-fire million
sterling. Australia, twenty years ago
was, so to speak, nowhere. The
entire export trade of that vast anti
podean groap in 1850 stood at four asc
a balf millions, risieg, however, in 1866
to thirt-one millinens. During the
same period the impart trade advanced
same period the impari trade advance
from five to thirty-fire millions; the
two together aggregating respectively
ten millions in 1850 and sixty - six mil
lions in 1866. Uanada, at ouce the old
est and the nearest of Britain's Colo
nles, has nade ecarcely
strides during the tweuty Years. Tb
importh of Canada proper, iu 1850 , we
thrree and a half millione. They rose
1866 to eleven millions. Daring that pe
iod ber exports rose from two and a ha
to eleven and a balf millions © The im
ports of Nora Seotia advanced from on
to three millions; New Brunswick frot
less than a million to more than two
Prinee Edward Island from £123, 000
to $£ 444,000$; $N$ owfoundland from $£ 867$
000 to $£ 1,200,000$. In almost every in
stance the exporta exceed the imports
an anerring indication of wealth an
prosperity. Refering to the Colonist
of Britigh America, the writer re
marks : -
Mot lightly change their nationa
ity. Of wbat foree would be the time-bo
ored sentiment o' patrioitism it man eould
freely cart aside the citizenstip they ere bo
freely cart aside the citizensbip they are bo
unto, as woold be the case did British Co
oniots not carry with them The eonvictic
that they were but moing
that they were but moving irom one part
the empire to another. Tbe. Scotch a
among the most frequent colonizers, but
countryman is so teoacious of bis nationali
as The Seot. It is ont affirming too much
gay that the evecess of British colonzati
has been largely due to the fact that it
British.
Striking a balance, the writer fin
that the Colonial empire cosis
mothar country one million a yea
equal to arout nine pence per he
of the
Kt the entire populatior of henitate
Kingdom, and be does not her
discover far more than a set off in t
sabstantial advantages aceruing to
imperial from the colonial empire.
1866 Great Britain imported from
colonies to the value of seventy-fo
millions sterling. The reader will
prepared to learn that the author

times as mach as it does. He ho
tial to its maintebance, the Colon
ought to pay their fair quota towa
the support of the oavy; and it is
the support of the vavy; and it is su
gested that this might be done by a fi
percent rate upon the colonial rerenu
which would yield two and a half $m$
percent rate upon the colonial revenu
which would yield two aud a half $m$
lions sterlinga year. This really at
artiole, of which we have only been al
to offer a most imperfect review, co
cludes as follows: -

- The loag annals of the world are but
The loag annals of the world are but
eosord of the rise and fallof eviccessive o
pires. Assyria, Greece. Rome, Cartha
where sre they? Is the British Empire no
Where sre they? Is the British Empire no
ere scarce its Itmits are understood, to
numbered with the things that were but
not? Is England to part with her pose
not? Is England to part with her poss
sions, and become once more a secondef
power, with interesis bounded by
seas that wash her shores? This is
question which now bas to be answered,
which her statesmen se called upon
consider.
convider.
THE ateam Deluge was out for

