

been flashed across the seas are sufficient to make every reader realize the responsibilities of the race to which he belongs. Great must have been the delight and admiration of the students at the Scottish seat of learning, capable as they are of appreciation, when the scolar and statesman indulged in a retrospect of what might have happened if the elder Pitt had not left the House of Commons. On this subject, Lord Rosebery is thus reported, and every Canadian will follow the gifted speaker, and, looking backward, ponder on the picture of the past presented in such interesting shape:—

Lord Rosebery asserted that "but for the small incident of the acceptance of a peerage, the Empire might have been incalculably greater. Had the elder Pitt, when he became first minister, not left the House of Commons, he would have retained his sanity and authority, and he would have prevented, or suppressed, the reckless budget of Townshend, induced George III. to listen to reason, introduced representatives of America into Parliament, and preserved the thirteen colonies to the British Crown.

"It is fanciful to dwell for a moment on what might have happened, continued Lord Rosebery. The reform bill of 1832 would probably have been passed much earlier, for the new blood of America would have burst the old vessels of the constitution. It would have provided for a self-adjusting system of representation, such as now prevails in the United States, whereby the increasing population is proportionately represented. And, at last, when America had a majority of seats, the Empire, would, perhaps, have been moved solemnly across the Atlantic, and Britain would have become a historical shrine, the European outpost of the world empire. What an extraordinary revolution it would have been. The greatest known without bloodshed. The most sublime transference of power in the history of mankind. Our conceptions can scarcely picture the procession across the Atlantic of the greatest sovereign and the greatest fleet in the universe. Ministers, government, and parliament, departing solemnly for another hemisphere. Not as in the case of the Portuguese sovereigns, emigrating to Brazil under the spur of necessity; but, under the vigorous embrace of the younger world. America would have hung on the skirts of Britain, and pulled her back out of complications. She would have profoundly affected her foreign policy in the direction of peace, and her influence on her domestic policy would have been scarcely less potent. Probably she would have appeased and even contented Ireland. The ancient constitution of Britain would have been rendered more comprehensive and more elastic.

"On the other hand, the American yearning for liberty would have taken a different form, would have blended with other traditions and floated into other moulds.

"Above all there would have been no separation, no war of independence, no war of 1812, with the bitter memories these have left in America. To secure that priceless boon, I could be satisfied to see a British federal parliament sitting in Columbia territory."

Dwellers on the continent of America cannot help contemplating this word painting of Lord Rosebery's with genuine admiration, although it suggests melancholy and mournful reflections to have to think of

Britain as "a historical shrine, the European outpost of the world empire."

However, the feeling that this gifted statesman must cease to play the part of "the sage, with retrospective eye" dwelling on what might have happened, has seemingly become strong enough to warrant the hope that he will shortly yield to the wish of the nation and re-enter the "arena of action."

#### The Future of South Africa.

On the 7th inst., at the annual meeting of the Robinson South African Banking Company, the chairman, Mr. J. B. Robinson, who is an authority on South African affairs, delivered a most interesting address, and one that we regret our space will not allow of the publication in full. Anticipating the coming settlement of affairs in the two States recently acquired by conquest, Mr. Robinson ventures to express his opinion of what should be done to pacify and populate South Africa. He says that Great Britain cannot expect to acquire two States so enormous in size, possessing such rich lands, productive in every respect, with all the Crown assets of the two States, as well as the future development that will follow in the great expansion of her commerce and other industries, for a paltry sum of \$300,000,000, and then turn round and tell the inhabitants of these countries that they will have to pay the amount, or a portion of it, to enable her to acquire those valuable possessions. To tax the mines or to impose any burden of debt on the newly-acquired States for the purpose of paying a portion of the cost of the war, would, in Mr. Robinson's opinion, be perpetrating a very great injustice upon the whole population of South Africa. It is not only the shareholders in the mines, but it is the whole population of the country that is dependent upon these mines. There are thousands upon thousands of workingmen from Great Britain, with their families, in South Africa, who are dependent for their livelihoods upon the working of the mines. A great many more are proceeding there for the purpose of finding employment and to improve their positions. There are hundreds of thousands of people who intend to settle in the two States as soon as the war is over. Some of them intend to better their positions by acquiring and developing mining and mineral claims. Others, again, intend to give their attention to agriculture and other profitable enterprises throughout both these countries. South Africa must be populated by a progressive race of men, and it is the policy of Great Britain to offer inducements to such men to settle there.

Although the address of Mr. Robinson bristles with evidence of his desire to make the operations of the corporation he represents profitable, his suggestions are well deserving of very careful consideration by the British Government. He proposes that until matters have been finally settled and the inhabitants of the two States have been brought into line, and have