

that portion of the Empire which he was sent to administer. And in order to complete the consideration of those measures which are preliminary to the establishment of young commonwealths, I have treated at some length of the policy of colonial governments towards the native races inhabiting their dominions.

To trace the progress of colonies in their second or adult stage, and up to the period when their independence, either virtual or actual, commences (for a community may continue under the central authority long after it has advanced, in an economical point of view, from the rank of a colony, properly so called, into that of a state), I have found almost too wide a field of inquiry for the limits of a course of lectures. The third part of these lectures is, however, concluded with some observations on the growth of capital in new countries, and on taxation, considered with reference to it; on their civil and ecclesiastical government, and the chief political and social features of their condition. The volume now published comprises the first and second of these three divisions, and the commencement of the last.

No period in the history of our transmarine empire, except perhaps that which immediately preceded the American Revolution, has been so fertile in lessons and examples as that in which we live. Reviewing the portion of time which has elapsed since the delivery of these lectures began, I find that the country has witnessed in the interval the great experiment of the union of the two Canadas; the first results of the full emancipation of the slaves in our colonies; the trial of the new "principles of coloni-