

LECTURE No. 4.

Friday, February 23rd, 1906.

IMPERIAL DEFENCE.

Vital importance of sea power to the existence of the Empire. Past achievements of the British Navy. The present Navy. Cost of its maintenance. Immensity of its task. The control of three oceans. Extent of the trade that it protects. The Merchant Marine and its relation to imperial defence. The old Navigation Laws. Adam Smith's verdict on their operation. Growth of the Navies of the Great Powers. Present naval policy of Germany. Enormous expenditures of the United States. Policy of keeping the British Navy equal to the "Best Two" of the foreign navies. Is it possible to continue it? Views of Sir Michael Hicks-Beach. Urgent need of colonial co-operation. Present extent of colonial contributions. The attitude of Canada. An efficient British Navy as essential to the future welfare of the Colonies as to that of the Mother Country. The Military Defence of the Empire. The exposed land frontiers of Canada and India. Australia and the Yellow Peril. Proposals for an imperial militia. Imperial defence not a policy of aggression. It offers the best guarantee of universal peace.