

no part of their duty to garrison and defend the keys of the Empire Colonial Legislatures regard it as an "Imperial responsibility," the British Parliament seems to regard it as a Colonial "burden." Meantime places like Vancouver's, Fiji, King George's Sound, St. Helena, and others are to be left to take care of themselves. Thus, in chasing a "will-o'-the-wisp," composed of imaginary and fantastical distinctions between "Colonial burdens" and "Imperial responsibilities," we are walking into a dangerous quagmire, to find, perhaps too late, that there are no such "distinctions" and no separate "burdens," and that with a Federal army and a Federal fleet we might have defied attack, and thus prevented war.

Our fleets, however, will want other things besides military garrisons at their bases. In these days they will need dockyards near at hand, providing sufficient means of repair; and they will require a sure, steady, and certain supply of coal, and telegraphic communication.

To protect the trade lines in the Pacific Ocean, with its 70,000,000 square miles of water, we shall in war require an enormous fleet. That fleet should be entirely independent of Atlantic dockyards, and a great Imperial dockyard at the other side of the world is a most apparent necessity. Though Australia and New Zealand are first and chiefly concerned, it is not merely a Colonial want. Every portion of our Empire has an interest in that ocean, and therefore such a dockyard is a great Imperial requirement. If it be said our Empire cannot afford to create such a dockyard, then let us quietly haul down the Union Jack in the Pacific before we are ignominiously compelled to strike it. But before doing so, it may be worth considering whether it would not be a better alternative to abolish one of our home dockyards, and remove the officials, plant, and sufficient reserve ships to Sydney, the natural Portsmouth of the Pacific. The loss at home would be more apparent than real. Though there would be one Royal dockyard less at home, the pressure both in peace and war of the maintenance of fleets for half the world would be removed. The resources of private yards at home are so enormous that not only can they meet the demands of the mercantile marine in its busy time of peace, but they can turn out war vessels for our possible enemies by scores. They would be idle in war, and available for the construction and repair of war ships. There are no such private naval resources away from English shores, and therefore at present for aid, for reinforcements, and for maintenance, the enormous Pacific fleet responsible for the safety of half the world must in war rely on private and public yards crowded together in a small island in the