

probably one half in English goods, often of inferior quality. (Mark this, ye anti-colonists !) And yet her existence as a Colony has been as good as ignored ; excepting to send out Governors, of whom the Colonists never heard, with exorbitant salaries, but without local knowledge or experience, who when there, ride over the feelings and wishes of the inhabitants, and whose sole occupation seems to be to find out fresh sources of taxation. British Columbia has not even Postal communication with the rest of the world ; and however unseemly it may appear, that a great nation like England should be indebted to a foreign Power for the carriage of her Government dispatches, their arrival in British Columbia, in the absence of any Postal agreement, depends on the good will of the United States Government, and their postage is paid for by the Colony.

Now, if, as the anti-colonists will have it, the Colonies cost more than they are worth, and England would do better to get rid of us, let us be told so at once, instead of neglecting and coquetting with us by turns. If England is blind to the value of British Columbia, both in a commercial point of view and as controlling the Pacific, the United States are wide awake on the subject ; and whatever the loyalty of British Columbia, if the ties that bind her to the mother country are burdensome to both, let them be torn asunder. But, if otherwise, such language as the above can only tend to indispose and alienate a Colony, which has already too many just causes of complaint. The grievances of British Columbia were submitted by the writer not long since to the House of Commons, in a petition, an abstract from which can be consulted in the Appendix (E).

POLITICAL AND IMPERIAL SIDE OF THE QUESTION.

We have now examined the principal objections which have been made to this truly national undertaking ; and we have answered, and, as we think, refuted them all ; with the exception of that relative to the Hudson's Bay Company, which can only be solved by the Government. But besides the many reasons already given in favour of this scheme, which has been shown to be neither visionary nor hopeless, there are imperial reasons of the greatest weight. First among which may be placed that of connecting British Columbia with the Dominion, so as to retain both of them permanently under the British flag. We have just alluded to the way in which British Columbia has been neglected, and the consequent state of disaffection there ; but in a military point of view, and to quote a letter of Professor Maury's, written nine years ago, on the commanding geographical position of Vancouver Island, in connection with the different routes at that time under discussion for an Overland Railroad, he says :—

“ Vancouver Island commands the shores of Washington and Oregon ; and whether the terminus of the Northern (American) road be on Paget Sound or at the Mouth of the Columbia river, the muni-