

Well aware as you are that all the Colonies to which Mr. Howe proposes to apply his scheme now enjoy all these privileges to the fullest extent, save and except the privilege of making a speech on a "Colonial grievance" once in ten years, and "wasting their time in the House of Commons" "when they would be better employed at home," it cannot but be apparent how much he was embarrassed by the effort to show some commensurate advantages which would accrue to the Colonies in return for the taxation proposed, and the serfdom to which he wished to reduce them. Mr. Howe must have forgotten, when venturing this statement, that he had already declared (page 7), that "the powers conferred upon the English speaking Colonies leave them nothing, as respects domestic administration, to be desired." The following enumeration of perspective benefits is still more unintelligible. He says—"Now I have touched upon a number of subsidiary measures, such as a national currency, weights and measures, uniformity of police, systematic plantation, and the relief of the poor rates, postal, savings' banks, public improvements, and decennial exhibitions." If this means anything, it must be that Mr. Howe proposes to take the legislation upon all these matters out of the hands of the "serfs" who now enjoy free institutions, and place it in the hands of a Parliament where they would have one member in a house of six hundred and fifty-eight.

I frankly confess that I am equally unable to understand the following assertion made by Mr. Howe (page 31):—

"If a Zolverin, such as the Germans have, or free trade between states such as the Great Republic enjoys, be advantageous, we have them on the widest scale and with a far larger population."

Not only is there no proposition for free trade either between England and her Colonies, or between the Colonies themselves, contained in Mr. Howe's scheme, but the very reverse is inevitably involved. He declares that direct taxation will cost so much to enforce it, that all this contribution which is to relieve the people of Great Britain in so marked a degree, is to be raised by an additional duty levied upon imports. In other words, the Colonies are to raise this tax by levying it upon the goods imported from Great Britain, from each other, and necessarily increasing their existing tariffs by the amount required for that purpose. This appears to be Mr. Howe's notion of free trade.

I must admit that Mr. Howe has, in one part of his last pamphlet, done greater justice to the character of Colonial Institutions than I had expected at his hands. In advocating the selection of the Colonial representatives in the Imperial Parliament by the Local Governments of the day, he frankly says,—“We are secure of men truly representing the majority in each Colony, because they would speak in the name, and bring with them the authority of the Cabinets and Constituencies they represented.” And again —“We are secure by this mode of obtaining the best men, because only the best can win their way into these Colonial Cabinets, of whom the flower would be selected by their colleagues to represent the intellect and the character of each Province, on the floor of Parliament.” When it is recollected that Mr. Howe's mission to this country was to prove that the Representatives of Canada, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia, selected by the Governments of these Provinces, were endeavouring to sacrifice the best interests of the country, and that Mr. Howe, without even a seat in the Legislature, ought to be accepted as the real representative of the majority of the people of Nova Scotia, you will not fail to perceive at how great a sacrifice this candid admission of the respect due to Colonial Cabinets has been made. But this is not the only evidence of his present estimate of Colonial Statesmen. In his first pamphlet, he deplored as a grievous misfortune the