

received him to-night, and the kindness with which you have listened to what I have laid before you, will be the best encouragement to him, as it will be to me, not to grow weary in well-doing. (Hear, hear.) I have no complaint to make of the criticisms bestowed on the suggestions laid before you the other evening; on the whole I consider the balance greatly in their favour—(hear, hear)—and cheerfully forgive the few cavils raised for the sake of the many words of commendation we have heard, of the general scope and practicability of central and Colonial partnership in emigration, I have listened with the greatest interest to the experiences of one colonist after another which some in this room seem disposed to think too particular and narrow. I own that I rather lean to what may be perhaps miscalled the narrow view. When I was a young man I loved to deal in general theories about our own country, and the rest of the world into the bargain. Like the physician of Voltaire I had three cures for every disease, and now I am older I find many diseases for which I have not even one. I am only too thankful to find any specific that promises a practical cure, and I have lost gradually my faith in universal and uniform theories. I understood from Mr. Bourne and Mr. Labillière that they were all for trying what could be done with the thick end of the wedge. I am in favour of the thin end, for I have always found it uncommonly difficult to get in the other. (Laughter.) The Minister for Queensland was especially eloquent and interesting in his discourse, and I am quite content to act on his advice and put our experiment of joint action to the test when and where we can. It is not so easy to do extensive good as those may imagine who seldom practically and perseveringly try. Several years ago, as Mr. Styleman Herring reminds us, we adopted a large scheme of emigration, and held our first meeting at Westminster; but, as far as general contribution by the Treasury is concerned, we are not much nearer to the realisation of our hopes. If you could get Parliament to agree this year and next year to do what is necessary for Queensland and Canada, for my part I should be only too glad; and I confess to you, and those who through the Press hear what one says, that I have great faith in the spirit of honourable emulation among Colonies which would be beneficially excited when two of their number have shown a new and better way of increasing the strength of their population, and which in due time would lead others to follow their example. Queensland is the youngest of the sister states, but she shows that she is waking up to the duty of making an effort, and making offers of some kind in regard to the new state of things; but as yet they come only