

ble for her to maintain herself in her position to the United States, such a policy would be tantamount to surrendering her to the United States; and the people of England would not, therefore, have created a new and friendly nation, but would have very greatly augmented the strength of a country that had latterly shown extreme animosity towards them. This was plain English; and the same might be said of the West Indies, who could not long remain independent communities. He contended that before advocating or taking a step which could never be retraced, the present colonial policy of self-government should be thoroughly worked out and exhausted. It had thus far been eminently successful, though only in operation for a very few years. Quarrels between the colonies and the mother-country had almost wholly ceased. The Imperial expenditure had in time of peace been reduced to literally nothing, so far as the wants of the self-governing colonies were concerned, and he believed the question of self-defence admitted of easy solution. He thought the present policy should be further developed and extended, and he would venture to suggest the direction which it ought to take. Much difficulty arose, and must always exist, from the number and variety of the colonies. Many had adjusted their own tariffs and established their own fiscal systems; the consequence was, that if difficulties arose with one requiring the imposition of taxation, it might be in opposition to the policy of the others and of the mother-country. He thought, then, it would be desirable so to harmonise and federate them as to bring them into different groups, so that instead of fifty colonies there would be five or six groups. It was clear that by joining the resources of all, the strength of the whole would be increased for defence, and thus the burden of defending them would be reduced to the mother-country. As to the North American colonies, the question had been brought under the notice of the Imperial Government three years ago, but no progress had been made. Canada, with a population of 2,600,000, was debarred from the ocean during the winter season, and even in summer she had little connection with the lower colonies. New Brunswick had a population of 300,000. Canada had no coal; New Brunswick was one natural coal field. Nova Scotia had a population of 330,000; she possessed valuable mines of iron, coal, and even of gold. Newfoundland was celebrated for its fisheries. If these colonies could bring together the resources which each possessed for the benefit of the whole, the strength and influence of the whole would be increased. Instead of five different systems and tariffs, there would be only one; instead of lines of custom-houses along each frontier, there would be