

ordinary principle against the policy. It would be the first of its obligations to protect its dependencies of any kind. This is the only moral principle obtained as shall be by hostile attack on. The main-tenance of numerous and distant colonies is not only a burden, but a duty which the country owes to its colonies. From the point of view, the power to bring the colonies into question, and its maritime power is the most serious and the hostile mind of the world has not been competition ignored. The numerous dependencies, however we slight dangers, there is an honour in honouring any unusual means of France, and an energetic preparation of a just pretext or itself a ground that was an evil colony, when it rose in his hands, and, "with humility." France should be; and that he on the part of those who chose to anger him might be the cause of the ministers of thunder, and the pending action, and a portentous which has recently miles of our

While protecting the colonies, as we are bound to do, from any possible consequences of a rupture with a maritime power, it is not just that the whole of their internal police, and, as far as possible, the force requisite for controlling warlike neighbours or savage or semi-civilised tribes, should be provided exclusively by themselves. The Cape of Good Hope, in consequence of its scanty population in proportion to its extent, must be a temporary exception to this rule. It admits unhappily of no doubt, that the Cape colony, which absorbs almost an army for its defence, is quite incapable of keeping in check the vast hordes of barbarians that are constantly pressing on the colonial frontier; and that without an imposing force of British troops it would probably be speedily overrun by the Kafir race, and every vestige of civilisation effaced in a few months of exterminating warfare. With this exception, the colonies should be left to provide for their internal defences, and every effort should be used to promote the growth of their military strength and the cultivation of that martial spirit which is the characteristic of their race.

But to measure the importance of our colonies merely by the standard of finance, would be to form a very false estimate of their value. The time has long passed when these magnificent possessions were regarded chiefly as the convenient but costly appurtenances of a corrupt government, supplying the means for rewarding political services, and buying off troublesome opposition. They are now the homes of virtuous and happy but once depressed and suffering multitudes, who fled to them as a refuge from distress, and found in the fertile regions beyond the seas a comfort and an independence they had sought in vain amidst the crowd and competition of their native land. They still present boundless fields for the employment of our redundant population. Nor can there be a doubt that the world at large has greatly benefited by the activity of British emigration. The colonists carried the arts, sciences, language, and religion of the old world to lands previously occupied only by a few miserable savages; the empire of civilization has been immeasurably enlarged; England has been enriched by a vast variety of new products, and by a commerce which overwhelms the

imagination by its immensity; and her numerous settlements have served to stimulate the inventive powers of genius, and to call forth some of the highest qualities of human nature, while they have abundantly rewarded, and will long continue to reward, the patient industry of man.

patriot as poet, has
on the import-
table naval pre-

is your all,
the force

* And honour of your fleets; o'er that to watch,
Even with a hand severe, and jealous eye.
In intercourse be gentle, generous, just,
By wisdom poised, and of manners fair;
But on the sea be terrible, untamed,
Unconquerable still: let none escape,
Who shall but aim to touch your glory there."