

left to govern themselves, and thrive abundantly, as the statistics collected by Burke (Speech on Conciliation with America) amply attest, tho' handicapped by false notions as to the advantages arising from monopolies of colonial trade. This policy, wholesome in many respects, was succeeded by the attempt, which proved fatal, at tampering with colonial self-government, and which lost the American provinces to England. Frightened by the successful rebellion of those Plantations, English statesmen sought to prevent the recurrence of a similar calamity by tightening the relaxed reins of power, governing the colonies from Downing Street, and asking no suit or service from them, while paying many of their expenses out of the Imperial Treasury. This, in turn, was abandoned, being as inexpedient in practice as it was false in principle. The right of self-government has, of late, been again conceded, in return for which the burden of their expenses as portions of the British Empire is being gradually transferred to colonial shoulders. Such is the colonial policy now put in force, and its wisdom cannot justly be quarrelled with, it being very evident that the colonies have arrived at such a stage of social and political development that they will not brook outside interference with their local affairs; nor are they, on the other hand, disposed to deny the justice of the proposition enunciated by the English Government, that the assumption of the *liabilities* of citizenship of the British Empire is the natural corollary of the concession of its *rights*. On the whole, the treatment received by the colonies, since 1776, has been generous, if not always wise; and the time has perhaps come or is rapidly approaching when the burden of expense should be more equitably distributed. Unlike other colonizers, Englishmen have not sought to make their colonies share the general expenses of the Empire, or to impoverish them in order to aggrandize the Mother Country. Spain ruthlessly drained her colonial possessions, but this policy defeated itself, and eventuated in killing the goose that laid the golden eggs. The history of the colonial enterprises of other modern nations is largely the same. On the contrary, says Adam Smith, "Great Britain is, perhaps, since the world began, the only state which, as it has extended its Empire has only increased its expenses, without once augmenting its resources. Other States have generally disburdened themselves upon their subject and subordinate provinces of the most considerable part of the expenses of defending the Empire."\* To this

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\*Wealth of Nations, p. 256.