

themselves(y); and, in fact, Lord Durham in his report had mentioned trade with the Mother Country, with the regulation of foreign relations, as among the few matters which should be retained in the control of Great Britain. That no attempt was made to place such limitations upon the measure of political liberty conceded to the colonies, was due to the strength of the free trade movement. "The granting of the new constitutions to Canada and the Australian colonies," says a recent writer (z), "came at the moment of the flush of the free trade victory. In the freshness of that triumph, hopes were strong that the victory won for free trade in England was won for the world; only faint-hearted or interested people doubted that the generation before them would see all nations coming into the fold of natural trade. We might as well have chosen a moment when a Roman Consul was descending from the car of his triumphal procession to the Capitol to ask him to acknowledge that the empire was growing too fast, as have asked free trade victors between 1846 and 1848 to 'think of removing the control of trade from the self government then being granted to the colonies,'" while as to military defence, such considerations would have marred what the late Mr. C. H. Pearson, in his *National Life and Character*(a), describes as "the vision of inspired Manchester men that the angel of peace was to descend on the world in a drapery of untaxed calico." No doubt as to the world at large Mr. Pearson is justified in adding that that vision is still as far from accomplishment as the vision seen at Patmos; nevertheless it may be fairly claimed that the English free trade policy has been of the greatest service to the Empire in modifying foreign jealousy and hatred, and it is a fact that since the American war of 1812, no colony of Great Britain has felt the brunt of foreign war, but the strength of the United Kingdom

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(y) *Speeches*, (T. E. Kebbel) Vol. 2, p. 530; quoted Egerton's *Short History of British Colonial Policy*, p. 362.

(z) Caldecott's *English Colonization and Empire* (University Extension Series), pp. 177-9.

(a) P. 138.