

I have lived for a quarter of a century in one of the most flourishing and not the least important of the British Colonies, and I venture to say that there is less disloyalty towards the Parent State there than is to be found in England or any part of the United Kingdom. I can affirm, after many years' experience of the habits and conduct of the colonists, that a feeling of loyal enthusiasm has been developed amongst them in every instance where there has been any occasion to call for its exercise. I may appeal for evidence of this to several old friends and colonists. At the conclusion of the Russian war, when the Patriotic Fund was started, when subscriptions to a large amount were being collected everywhere, there was no part of the United Kingdom where the call was responded to so liberally as it was in Australia. I myself know that in the first instance, in Sydney, they collected as much as 60,000*l.* for that fund—a larger sum than was received in all Ireland. In Tasmania the average collected was 1*l.* a-head for every individual in the island. See what that would have amounted to had the same been done in England. You would then have had some 20,000,000*l.* I can speak, I think, practically as to the generosity and loyalty of every section of the community. I was associated with one of the Judges in making the collection, and in one of those divisions which was canvassed by myself and Mr. Justice Therry, we got 4,000*l.* in three days, going from house to house. I do not boast of this. I mention it to show the unshaken loyalty and devotion of these distant Colonies, and the pride they have in the British name, and in the possession of a common British citizenship. It seems to me, in point of fact, that it is but the mere shadow of an argument that is adduced by the writers who advocate the casting-off of the Colonies, when they say that the expense which they entail upon the Mother-country in maintaining troops and fleets is thrown away, as it does nothing but keep up an unprofitable *prestige* of a great Empire. Well now, with regard to that, I think it is right we should understand that there is a palpable error on that subject. With regard to the military forces which are maintained by England in the Australian Colonies, the Imperial Government has only to say—(there are merely some three or four companies of soldiers in Sydney who receive Imperial pay)—it could no longer pay for them, but the Colony must bear the expense itself. It has only to be proposed, and it would be done. The whole of these Colonies have a large Volunteer Force as a means of self-protection, and in the event of England being involved in any war, and obliged to withdraw her troops, they could be spared. I believe in Melbourne alone we have had as many as 10,000 Volunteers in the field collected on one given occasion; and the only argument I can see in support of the view of the Colonies being a burden to the Home Government is, that she would have to protect them in the case of war, in the event of ships going from one port to another. Even