

the millions of our poor countrymen who have relations in other parts of the world, or the emigrants themselves. It is like a bridge completed all but one arch, which still leaves a yawning and impassable chasm. (Cheers.) It betokens either a lack of financial courage, or deficient confidence in the future of the Empire. (Hear, hear.) The $2\frac{1}{2}d.$ rate only relieves those who must write, at all costs; it does not tempt others to write. The poor find it still too high for their pockets. A really popular rate must be the same as the familiar domestic rate of everyday life; if it be higher, it will not be popular—it will not reach the masses. (Hear, hear.)

BRITISH TRADERS.

In writing to Lord Salisbury on this question, I pointed out that it is the highest policy to give our commercial men the cheapest possible postage to the outer world. I continued my letter in these words:—

“ We have also to remember that hitherto our manufacturers have been severely handicapped in the competition with European rivals for Colonial trade by the heavy postal rates which they have had to pay, amounting to double the rates charged to the foreigner. A year and a-half ago they were placed, by the new $2\frac{1}{2}d.$ rate, on a level in this respect with