

them as much more important possessions than they are now supposed to be.

We must never forget that the 'cheap defence of nations' is not to be balanced like a merchant's accounts—so many pounds debtor, and so many pounds creditor. We must look deeper into our transactions, and not think alone of what we expend, but of what we keep. And who is bold enough to say, that if, for the sake of a comparatively trivial saving of money, we relinquish these noble colonies, we shall not essentially weaken the foundations of the wooden wall which is proverbially the safeguard of our island? Besides all these considerations, I may just hint in passing, that the tenure by which we hold the West India Islands, which employ nearly three hundred thousand tons of British shipping, and fifteen thousand seamen, annually, would be greatly weakened by the abstraction of these northern Provinces, from which their chief supplies are derived. Neither do I say any thing of the Newfoundland or Labrador fisheries, those prolific nurseries of seamen; because their advantages are now shared by the Americans and by the French. Yet it should not be forgotten, that, if the British Provinces were to become members of the American Union, it is more than doubtful whether these important maritime advantages would be any longer shared by foreign nations.