

Is Canada entitled to no consideration? Are all her efforts, all her expenditure, all her aspirations, to go for nought?

Are the vital interests of the British Empire to be neglected? Is the permanent policy of England to be thwarted? Is the peace of the world to be endangered at the bidding of a Joint Stock Company?

In 1823 the instructions given to that distinguished Ambassador, Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, contained these words:—

“To preserve the peace of the world is the leading object of the policy of England. For this purpose it is necessary in the first place to prevent to the utmost of our power the breaking out of new quarrels; in the second place to compose, where it can be done by friendly mediation, existing difficulties; and, thirdly, when that is hopeless, to narrow as much as possible their range; and, fourthly, to maintain for ourselves an imperturbable neutrality in all cases where nothing occurs to affect injuriously our interests or our honour.”

I believe, Sir, that these noble sentences define the policy of England to-day as they did sixty years back. The circumstances are, however, not the same, and there are, if possible, stronger reasons for adhering to that policy than there ever were. Colonies are planted in the four quarters of the globe, and British interests are world-wide. The Eastern question has long been a burning question, but England is now less concerned with Europe than with Australasia, Africa, Asia, and America. If to preserve the peace of the world be the leading object of the policy of England, that object may most surely be attained by England concerning herself less with Europe, and more with the English people and the Queen's subjects beyond Europe. To follow such a course is to my mind dictated by a proper apprehen-