

a continent! Had it not been for the desperate struggle with Napoleon and Europe combined, in which Professor Seeley so clearly traces the Colonial influence, Canada would to-day be either a French dependency or divided into a number of American States. Had it not been for the resolute determination of Great Britain to possess the whole and not a part of Australia, that great continent would have remained a *terra incognita*, or else have become a Dutch, German or French dependency.

Wherever, indeed, we glance through the early history of the Colonies we see clearly outlined the influence of British connection. In the protection of their national infancy; in the development of their political institutions; in the encouragement of their trade prior to the repeal of the Corn Laws; in the progress of their laws and literature; as well as in the protection of their sea-going commerce, and the prevention of these internal disputes which would otherwise have been early destructive of their peace and prosperity, we can see the fostering care and kindness of the Mother Country. No words of mine, however, can so well describe what we owe to our connection with the mother-land as the eloquent language used by Principal Grant, of Queen's University, Kingston, when he wrote:

"We have a fixed centre of authority and government, a fountain of honour above us that all reverence, from which a thousand gracious influences come down to every rank. More valuable than the direct advantages are the subtle indirect influences that flow from our unbroken connection with the Old Land, these living and life-giving forces that determine the tone and mould the character of a people. Ours are the old history, the graves of our forefathers, the flag they died for, the name 'to which a thousand memories call,' the Queen, whose virtues transmute the principle of loyalty into a personal affection."

If we look at the past history of the Empire we will see that the very land upon which peaceful communities are now dwelling was acquired for them and theirs by the copious outpouring of British blood and treasure; that the national debt of the United Kingdom is largely made up of money expended in the conquest and defence of its Colonial possessions, and the inevitable inference is, that the citizens of the Empire abroad owe to the Mother Country a debt of gratitude and their continued true allegiance.