

now means to uphold this most anomalous *imperium in imperio* is all the more extraordinary, considering that, whilst the nation has thus submitted to exclusion from its magnificent American possessions, it has been incurring immense expenditure of blood and treasure on the acquisition of additional territories in Asia and Africa, infinitely less adapted to European habits and constitutions; and that at this very moment the House of Commons, which seems disposed to allow the Colonial Office to play ducks and drakes with British North America, has a committee sitting to inquire into the best means of colonizing India. The time is come for the abandonment of this suicidal policy, and the abolition of this most preposterous monopoly. Let the new ministers transfer to Canada as much of these territories as Canada requires or can manage, forming the rest into separate colonies or provinces, and throwing the whole freely open to British enterprise, and they will deserve well of their country and mankind, though it is quite possible that in thus founding a new and flourishing empire they may extinguish bears, beavers, and foxes within its precincts. If, on the other hand, they complete the job projected by their predecessors, and if parliament and the country acquiesce in such a solution of the problem, then the annals of the world may be searched in vain for a parallel instance of national folly and infatuation.

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#### FUNDS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

The Treasurer reports that the balance in his hands, December 31, 1857, was £18 11s. 7½d.; that the death of the late Mr. Finch, senior, caused an omission of the audit last year, but that Messrs. Ronald and Johnson will examine and report on the accounts of 1856-7, on an early day. The treasury at present is in a very improved condition, but still further subscriptions are required for the extension of operations now contemplated.