could declare in his place in Parliament without manifest absurdity that the British colonies of North America had no right to manufacture even a nail for a horse shoe, to the time when Sir Robert Peel could deliver the opposite opinion that the colonies should as far as possible be treated as though "they were integral parts of the kingdom"(*v*). And so we find Lord Elgin, in a letter to Lord Grey in March 23rd, 1850(*w*), marking the connection between these two matters, by observing that as the idea of maintaining the colonial empire for the purpose of exercising dominion or dispensing patronage had been for some time abandoned, and that of regarding it as a hot-bed for forcing commerce and manufactures more recently renounced, a greater amount of free action and self government might be conceded to British colonies without any breach of Imperial policy, than had, under any scheme yet devised, fallen to the lot of the component parts of any federal or imperial system. And so Mr. Lucas in his introduction to his recent edition of Sir G. Cornewall Lewis's Government of Dependencies(*x*), in like manner, observes that "the new colonial system of England has not resulted in a compromise as is the rule with English policy, but has been carried out boldly and generously to its logical conclusion. The explanation of a policy so foreign in this respect to the English cast of mind is to be found in the coincidence of the free trade question at home and the colonial question abroad."

Criticising in 1872 the colonial policy of the period we have now reached, Mr. Disraeli contended that self government ought to have been conceded to the colonies as part of a great policy of Imperial consolidation; that it ought to have been accompanied by an Imperial tariff and also by a military code, which should have precisely defined the means and the responsibilities by which the colonies should be defended, and by which, if necessary, Great Britain should call for aid from the colonies

(*v*) Walpole's History of England from 1815, Vol. 6, p. 329.

(*w*) Walrond's Letters and Journals of Lord Elgin, pp. 115-6.

(*x*) (London, 1891), p. 33.