

of this Society ; it would be quite superfluous for me to attempt to recapitulate them, or to endeavour to add to them by way of stating further grounds upon which our union is formed. I certainly do feel, when I look back, some degree of surprise that it has never occurred—or if it has occurred, at all events, that the idea has never been acted upon—to form an association of this kind. We see people aggregated together—people with kindred sympathies and kindred interests—for every possible object. They form combinations, unions, and societies for carrying out their designs. We have antiquarian societies, we have musical unions, we have political societies and scientific combinations of every kind ; and yet a class of men, who ought to be united by the strongest sympathies and the strongest possible interest, have never yet found any common bond of union such as that formed by this Society ; and it is, therefore, a matter of surprise that some such organisation as this has not been hitherto provided. You have already, my Lord, expressed in your Address the many advantages which an institution of this kind holds out in various ways to the colonist arriving in England for the first time, as well as to the emigrant proceeding to the Colonies, and desiring information with regard to the country to which he is going. You have already told us of the necessity of an institution which will supply the means of disabusing the minds of the people of errors which many persons are insidiously trying to instil into them. And I think we may regard ourselves in some cases, without assuming a political character, as in all probability likely to become a link between the Colonies and the Imperial Government. (Hear, hear.) I say this without inferring that we are to assume any distinct political character. I was very glad to find that our noble Chairman, who has just favoured us with such an eloquent Address, combated those mischievous and dangerous doctrines which have been put forth by able and clever, and I am afraid somewhat unscrupulous and, notwithstanding all the talent they possess, unthinking writers. I, in common with other colonists here present, repudiate and reject with indignation the doctrine and the influences of which that school of writers and thinkers are the chief exponents. I believe that, happily, they do not meet with much sympathy on the part of the public at large. There are, however, men occupying high political positions who seem carried away by the arguments of Mr. Goldwin Smith and others of his way of thinking. Their arguments appear to me so emphatically mischievous, so destitute of all political sound reason, that I can hardly conceive how any sane person can put them forth, or how any one can listen to and accept them. If the colonists were factious and discontented, if they sought separation from the Mother-country, and that in order to maintain them in their allegiance the Parent State were subjected to positive loss, that might be a reason why she should endeavour to disburden herself of them. Is this the fact ? Why, I venture to say that there is more loyalty in the Colonies than in the Parent State.