

working substitute for military preparations based on universal service. The means by which our statesmen have prevented the oft-prophesied collapse of the house of cards was by skilful manipulation of the Balance of Power, a plan which worked well from 1688, until the Balance of Power was no longer contained within the European perimeter. The addition of Siberia, Japan, Australia, Canada, China, and the United States of America as terms of the equation have obliterated the old religious and racial lines of demarcation. Although we would not employ Goorka or Sikh—and still less the Basutos—against the Boer, we have now sought an alliance with Asiatics against a Christian European Power, and in the event of a Russian attack upon India, *via* Persia, expect the Japanese, notwithstanding Mr. Balfour's admirable doctrine as to British self-defence, to supply the military reserve which we require, but do not possess or even propose to create. The guiding principle which brought England through the wars of the Spanish Succession, the Seven Years' Wars, and the Napoleonic struggle "in 1800 and war time," when applied to Indian problems through Asiatic allies may produce different results from those which formerly followed co-operation with neighbouring nations.

Let us remember that the relations between our Australian fellow subjects and our allies are not only strained, but the military and naval impotence of the Commonwealth is such that, but for its right of asylum in the Empire, the temptation to occupy Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide would be irresistible to the captors of Port Arthur. According to Major-General Hutton, the late Federal Commandant, "a force capable of taking the field does not at present exist in Australia." Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. Neild, Senator of the Commonwealth, writes (*Times*, September 7, 1905) that the people of Australia are living in a "fool's paradise." When Major-General Hutton quitted Australia he handed over to his successor at the end of 1904 a force of 18,000 troops, a reduction of 8000 in three years, "the department necessary