

Britain. He propounded the plan by which the United States could have been saved to the empire. He proposed that in "parting with them," as he termed it, we should bind them to us again, should "settle with them such a treaty of commerce as would effectually secure to us free-trade. It might dispose them not only to respect for whole centuries together that treaty of commerce which they had concluded with us at parting, but to favour us in war as well as in trade, and, instead of turbulent and factious subjects, to become our most faithful, affectionate and generous allies." And, finally, he showed that to render the provinces advantageous to the Empire they ought not only to maintain their own peace establishment and contribute their proportion to its general government, but to make their proportionate contribution in time of war.

In the light of what has happened since these words were written can we doubt what would have been the policy advocated by the economist were he now alive? Had he seen the wonderful success of the federation which has since then grown to such proportions under our eyes, had he witnessed the change that has come over our Colonial relations, and noted the extent of independence conceded under them, the whole cost of the peace establishment of the colonies borne by themselves,—and yet had observed the almost passionate yearning towards the home-land, the loyalty which neither persuasion, nor misunderstanding, nor insult is able to chill—would he not have joined with us who say,—Here are conditions under which just and enduring ties are possible; here are clear dictates of the truest and most beneficent policy for all parts of the Empire; this is the time, the peaceful time, the precious opportunity to unite in one great people the British communities of the world, to settle our constitution on foundations that shall never be moved? The example of the United States proves to us how perilous it is to trust to after treaties to reinstate relations once broken, as it appears on the face of it the idlest absurdity to propose to fracture an empire in order to put it together again.

It is not necessary that we should dissolve this marvellous Empire, the upgrowth of an energy and sacrifice unrivalled in the history of races. It is not necessary that we should dismiss from our family circle that vast sisterhood of nations which has grown up under our parental care—whom we have nourished, for whom we have suffered and struggled, to whom we have given our blood, our wealth, our best strength; from whom we hope for reciprocity,