

coal. Thus it is that the principle of "self-defence indiscriminately applied" to British Columbia vitally concerns Australia, and leaves it open to attack.

For some reason or other it is assumed that in the matter of the defence of the Empire the protection of the sea and the defence of the land are two separate and distinct questions: that Colonial responsibility is bounded by sea, and what is called Imperial responsibility, is bounded by land; that Colonies have none beyond their shores, and that, with some few exceptions, Imperial duties of defence are strictly and entirely confined to the sea. It is on this assumption we have based our preparations for defence; it is this theory which has produced huge military forces "fixed as the monument on Fish-street-hill," and which cannot move across the sea or pass from one Colony to another even though nothing separated them but a political boundary. We have at home 400,000 troops. Three-fourths cannot be moved across the sea, and nearly one-half (the volunteers) cannot even be moved to Ireland. "The self-reliant armies of the fragments of the Empire will do yeomen's service on their own ground, and that is all that may be expected of them." It is, therefore, very evident that both the United Kingdom and the Colonies at present seem to believe there is neither reciprocity nor commonality of responsibility so far as land defence is concerned. The result is that when we are threatened with invasion at home we can look for no military help from abroad, and when the Colonies are threatened abroad they can get no military aid from home. We may be in no danger of invasion, and with a military force, at the very least, of 300,000 at home we are to let British Columbia, or the West Indies, or all our Colonies go rather than give military help. The Cape may let St. Helena, the Falkland Islands, and the Mauritius go rather than move a man. Queensland must not mind Fiji being captured, nor New Zealand Tasmania being taken; nor must New South Wales mind Victoria being overrun, nor Victoria stir a military finger though the enemy be encamped at Adelaide; and South Australia must look on while a hostile force occupies King George's Sound. We impose no burden (say the Colonies) on the mother-country for the maintenance of our safety ashore, therefore they must defend themselves. We impose no burden on them, therefore we must defend ourselves; and so the system of territorial defence may thus be shortly summed up—every place for itself and the Empire for none!

But weak Colonies, having neither population nor resources sufficient to make even a faint show of military preparation sometimes get a little doubtful as to the efficacy of this newfangled doctrine