

grate in time to come, what right have you to expect reserved for you any part of the contracting crust of the surface of the earth where you can find a home and the welcome of your contrymen reserved for you, at our expense,—the possibility of holding, under the sovereignty of your country, a farm to plough, or a creek or river to sail a craft in.

To the poorer classes, this is the practical signification of the question of withdrawal of Imperial protection. It amounts to this, for though some ten or twelve years might elapse before the consequences showed themselves in force, the disappointment of many, the passive reception of injurious influences ever at hand on the part of others, and the consciousness with others of being treated with indifference, would in no long period work a world of mischief. Upon the declaration of such an intention a return of the dark day, a thing that still lives among the recollections of the older Colonists, would be memorable in the history of Canada, and would be found, I believe, with no white mark in the annals of the poor of the United Kingdom.

I am far from desiring to convey the impression that it would be unjustifiable in the Home Government, under any circumstances, to dissolve the connexion between these Colonies and the Mother Country. There are conditions that would render the severance not only justifiable but necessary. It might be necessary, if, for self-defence, the whole military force of the empire were needed in opposition to a very formidable