

No. XIV.

THE COLONIES IN TIME OF WAR.

*Letter from MR. H. B. T. STRANGWAYS to the
RIGHT HON. B. DISRAELI, M.P.*

From the 'EDINBURGH COURANT.'

THE following important communication was lately made to Mr. Disraeli by a former Colonial Minister, whose opinions have great weight in Australia. It has been acknowledged with thanks, and will no doubt receive careful consideration at the Colonial Office. The subject to which it refers has been frequently discussed in the Colonies, but we fear is very little understood at home :—

5 Pump Court, Temple, E.C., May 31, 1876.

Sir,—As you have more than once stated that it is the policy of your Government to 'consolidate the Empire' of England, I venture to bring forward a subject of very great importance, and one on which it appears to me that the maintenance of the empire of England will, in respect to her great Colonial possessions, eventually depend—that is, the relations that will exist between England and her Colonies in time of war.

It is not many years ago that when South Australia, which Colony was then paying a large proportion of the cost of the small body of troops then stationed there, applied to the Imperial Government to be informed whether, if the Colony paid for the troops in time of peace, their presence could be depended on in time of war, received a reply to the effect that no such guarantee could be given; and the Australian Colonies generally were allowed to understand that if they should desire