

and stamp upon the whole population of the Empire a national character.

In submitting these thoughts, I trust I may be pardoned for venturing to discuss a question of such magnitude and importance in presence of statesmen and public writers, whose exalted positions and long experience, render it hazardous to ask their consideration of new principles of Government. But, during thirty years of active public life, I have been compelled to study closely the nature of our Colonial and Imperial relations, with the opportunity of mingling freely with the public men of the United States, and of examining their system and development, and I respectfully indulge a hope that some weight may be given to sincere convictions, formed after many years of anxious deliberation, and expressed with no wish to embarrass, but with a very sincere desire to aid the public men of the Mother Country in dealing with the great interests committed to their care.