

OTHER PARTS OF THE KING'S DOMINIONS.

*India.*—If Canada ought to subscribe to the British navy, how much more should India? Control of the Mediterranean; occupation of Egypt; and defence of the Suez canal are requisite, we are told, for the security of India. Turcophile policy is essential, so it is said, because of the large Mohammedan population of India. Operations in Persia, and opposition to German and other railways are necessary, we are informed, because of India. The first Japanese alliance (which had the effect eventually of disturbing many things) was indispensable, Lord Landsowne thought, for the protection of India. Very well. Now when we are asked to subscribe to the British navy, have we a right to ask, what is India doing? How much does she subscribe? Nothing.

*Australia.*—Canada has been told that she ought to follow the example of Australia. What has Australia done? At the Colonial Conference of 1887, a bargain was made between the British government and Australia by which the Admiralty agreed to place certain war vessels "within the limits of the Australian stations;" that they should be removed only "with the consent of the Colonial governments"; and that of the cost involved, the colonies (Australia and New Zealand) should pay £126,000 per annum. The bargain was fulfilled, the ships were provided, and the money was paid. In 1903 a new agreement was made, and the payment was increased to £240,000 per annum. In 1907, both Admiralty and Australia were tired of the arrangement, and it was agreed that Australia should spend her money upon ship building for herself, Lord Tweedmouth (the First Lord) saying:

"I think, perhaps, it is impossible suddenly to make a change. I would suggest that a beginning should be made, and that probably the best way to start would be to allocate to local purposes, certain portions of the subsidies already given" (a).

The agreement was drawn up in proper legal form (b). The Lord High Admiral agreed that the naval force on the Australian station should consist of 1 first-class cruiser, 2 second-class cruisers, 4 third-class cruisers, 4 sloops; that its base should be the ports of Australia and New Zealand; that its sphere of operations should be the waters of the Australia, China, and East India stations:

(a) Proceedings, p. 131.

(b) It may be seen in the Australian statutes of 1908.