

it appears to me that it has not been quite fairly used. He was writing at a time when the monopoly was in force, when the conditions of Colonial government were difficult, and chiefly against the evils resulting from that monopoly. He was writing during what he termed those "disturbances" by which the fairest and noblest part of our dominions was lost to the Empire. Arguing then under these circumstances how did he express his conclusion?

*"Under the present system of management, therefore, Great Britain derives nothing but loss from the dominion which she assumes over her colonies."*

But with that conclusion staring him in the face, the heart even of the cool old economist seems to have revolted from the doctrine of Imperial dissolution, and his sagacious genius told him that it was more difficult to destroy than to fulfil.

*"To propose," said he, "that Great Britain should voluntarily give up all authority over her colonies, and leave them to elect their own magistrates, to enact their own laws, and to make peace and war, as they might think proper, would be to propose such a measure as never was and never will be adopted by any nation in the world. No nation ever voluntarily gave up the dominion of any province."*

In the years that since then have passed, Great Britain has made to her colonies some of the concessions to which he referred, and it has been declared by ministers of State that she is prepared to make them all. But, I solemnly say, every one concerned should be very cautious about taking it for granted that England will create the precedent which the economist said had never existed. Let no English statesman, no Colonial government, be too sure of the tame acquiescence of the English people in the rupture of their connection. I for one would not go bail that they would keep the peace. The Americans, who were coolly discussing constitutional questions, and very generally admitting theories of the right of secession, when their Federal flag was fired on at Fort Sumter, woke up with a shock, flung theory and discussion to the winds, and concluded the argument with the bayonet. I should like to see the minister who would stand up in the House of Commons with the Bill in his hand to abrogate the connection of Canada with the Empire!

But Adam Smith proceeded to shadow forth a system of relations under which both colonies and mother country, being drawn into closer connection, might mutually support one another. He looked forward to an alliance between the colonies and Great