

Barborne and Edgbaston Institute.

ADDRESS

DELIVERED TO THE MEMBERS OF THE INSTITUTE,
ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1st, 1887,

BY

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PRESIDENT.

ONE of the fathers of the Church, St. Chrysostom, an excellent man in his day no doubt, but I fear somewhat of a misogynist, has I have read, described woman somewhere in his writings as "A necessary evil, a natural temptation, a desirable calamity, a domestic peril, a deadly fascination, and a painted ill."

Substitute the word "colonies" for the word "woman," and you have a very fair statement of the feeling with which very many educated Englishmen still regard the colonies. They would rather be without them, and yet they would not give them up if they could. They may be "necessary evils," but they are also "desirable calamities."

I hope in the course of the present address to be able to show good reasons why we should consider our colonies generally speaking as very "desirable calamities" indeed, and calamities which we should do our best to retain, and whose connection with the Empire we should endeavour to strengthen and consolidate by all the means in our power. Look for a moment at the state of Europe to-day. The great military nations face one another armed to the teeth, it is with them now as it has even been in history:—

" . . . The good old rule
"Sufficeth them, the simple plan,
"That they should take who have the power,
"And they should keep who can."