

The British Colonies.

There is a certain class of English politicians, in the minority at present, but some day possibly to be in the majority, who advocate the abandonment by England of all her Colonies. This fact is not so well known as it should be; and it would be as well now to think it calmly over. Mr. Goldwin Smith, an acute and vigorous thinker, has however for some time past propounded the question, and Sir Stafford Northcote and others have thought fit to ventilate and debate it. Considering that we are not the two-hundredth part of the earth in size, but that through the aid of our possessions we hold the fourth part of it; remembering that every inch of ground has been won by our blood and treasure, or by the superior sagacity of our sons; recollecting that Colonies when parted with often grow into our bitterest enemies, as America has done; and that the material size of John, Pat, and Sandy, in their three little kingdoms, is absolutely nothing—the proposition to give up our Colonies is, to say the least of it, alarming.

Moreover it is a question of glory; and although peace philosophers may sneer at glory, it is the very life of a nation. Every Englishman holds himself higher, and feels himself a better man because his country is great, and because there is no part in the world in which the British Ensign does not fly. He delights to sing the rough naval songs which remind him that the glorious old flag waves over every sea, but not over one slave, and that the sun never sets upon the might of England! An ordinary man may fancy that this is nothing to Hodge the ploughman; but a thinker sees that it is indeed important. When Hodge marries Mary, their wildest son will go and "list," and spend some of his best years in defending those Colonies; or, after a short time, he may come home with tales of the riches and glory of the places he has been at, and send off the younger sons of the prodigal Hodge, who, in a new land, may build up riches and houses, and win lands and places of honor, such as their father could never have achieved at home. Through them, as is often the case, the father and mother may end their days in happiness and plenty. But even if neither Hodge nor his sons benefit by the Colonies, they are yet the poor man's possessions. England is parcelled out by the great and the rich: to buy an acre worth having here, one must almost spend a fortune; but in New Zealand, Queensland, Canada, or the Cape, there are thousands of acres which can be won merely by the strong arm, and the good will; and for every acre so won, the merchants of England will be looking to buy and carry seed and product. To those also who stay at home, our Colonies are sources of comfort and wealth. They are both reserves and resources. If a whole district is plagued by misfortune, the surplus population can be removed by emigration; if troublesome and stormy spirits arise, who do not understand our Constitution, and who require a greater space to expand in, our Colonial System affords them wonderful opportunities, which France, Austria, and Russia, with all their vast possessions, cannot offer.

The doctrines of Malthus, his theories of over-population, his remedies, and a thousand wicked suggestions about our surplus sons and daughters, have been overthrown entirely by our Colonies. Through their aid and that of our ships we are able better to understand the design of an All-Wise Creator, and to prove that he has not made one man too many, nay, that for years to come our Colonies can and will absorb all our extra population; and, while they make them happy, will increase our own prosperity. Since 1815 our population has increased at the rate of rather more than ten per cent. within the decennial period, and yet millions have left our shores and peopled other countries. France has gone through four revolutions, if we count the coup d'état of 1852, and has only increased at the rate of four per cent. The difference here indicated is immense. One knows that a tree is vigorous when it makes strong shoots and puts forward new branches; we may surely say the same of a nation. We are aware that our Colonies cost us a great deal of money. We are obliged to send soldiers, and to keep ships, and to find Governors for them, not to speak of our Colonial Secretary and staff at home. Their especial government is in their own hands: a more beneficial arrangement for them could not be made: they are as free as any nation in

the world, and they have the benefit of the protection of one of the most powerful. In return for this, more than one Colony has been very ungrateful: Canada has played a dirty game of twenty per cent upon some of our most necessary productions, by which she almost excludes them from her market; and certainly, as far as she can, injures the mother country. At the same time her people have very often debated the propriety of throwing off the English connecting link—we cannot call it yoke, for in our times our Colonies are so wisely governed that no pressure or expense is put upon them; their productions are received free of duty, and they have every reason to keep up the old tie which binds them to us. Of course, most of the wise colonists have seen this; and in Papineau's rebellion in Canada (in 1837 and 1838), and at other times the loyal colonists saw the advantages which subsisted on their side, and did their best to maintain the old connection; but even that time, though many have grown wiser and more loyal, others have become more stupid and more republican.

Before the outbreak of the present war the Canadians debated whether or not it would be good policy on their part to unite themselves to the American States. When the Fribourg Society of the Lac-Sar was organized in 1852 its objects were "the extension of the institutions, power, and influence of the United States, over all the Western Hemisphere and the islands of the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans." It began by an attempt to seize Cuba; it was going to swallow up the Sandwich Islands, and Canada was, we believe, the third mouthful on its bill of fare. It based its having many Canadian sympathizers, but the non-success of the expedition, the defeat of "General" Lopez, and the execution of that robber and about fifty of his followers, resulted in the Society being disowned by the President, and the scheme dropped through. The shocking scenes in America, now acting, will probably sufficiently sober the Canadians; yet upon our spending two millions in sending out troops for their defence, and our suggestion that they were now big enough to help themselves, their reply was tardy, their votes for militia was insufficient, and their behaviour was ungrateful. It is plain, therefore, that in process of time we shall lose Canada; and many people at home, as we have before said, have begun to ask the question—Of what use are our Colonies? Why not part with them now, and get rid of them? This, we repeat, is essentially a poor man's question: hence we debate it.

England is an especially commercial nation. Her relations and her interest in and with her Colonies resemble, therefore, not those feelings as exhibited by Rome or France, the great conquering empires, but those felt by Tyre, Phœnicia, Carthage, and Greece—the commercial and civilizing nations which of old were foremost in colonizing the old world. What these relations were when subsisting between the mother countries and those children Thucydides has told us. The city which sent out the Colony was called the "Metropolis" (mother city), and she appointed the head Colonist or Governor; but beyond that, it was left to govern itself just as ours are. The last

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Grecian and Carthaginian colonies were precisely those which we look for now; but the mother city never did for her settlements what the wise and generous country of Great Britain has done for hers. It is but right that the parent and children should reap something like reciprocal advantages. We give them good government, free institutions, free trade, a solid-y, and an emolument, and a protection, while they are young and weak. During those days we never hear any of them thinking of separation. To return for this we expect an extension of trade, and a fair exchange; the employment of additional men in trade, and the opportunities given to many of realising a fortune, which, in the end, benefits the mother country; and, lastly, the absorption of what is called the surplus population. Of these advantages, we get a much greater share from the Colonies than we do from any other country, but it is not fair to say that those advantages we share with others, and in a manner which no other country would do. A Frenchman, a German, or a Chinese, is just as free to settle and buy land in our Colonies as an Englishman; and thousands upon thousands take advantage of this. The Colonies of England are homes of refuge for all the world. We cannot for a moment suppose they would be equally so if we were to abandon them to any other power; for the moment we did so, differential duties would stop our exports, and prevent us from being the workshop of the world. To block up every port against England, to throw her goods upon the hands of her manufacturers, and thus to ruin her merchants and her working people, was the dream of Napoleon; and our Nelsons and Collingwoods had to open those very ports within their broadsides.

Luckily our position with regard to Europe is now very good; and although America has almost practically closed her ports to us, yet France and our Colonies have so much improved, as customers, that the twelve millions which the Americans have thrown on our hands have been absorbed by other customers. But let us for a moment imagine that Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and other numerous dependencies were once exalted into separate States, each with great ideas of protection, and anxious to raise money for its separate navies, and armies, and government, and only too willing to put the heaviest possible duties upon English goods, under the specious pretence of encouraging native manufactures, as the true protectionist says—where would then be our weakness and our merchants? What would be the worth of our millions, which would be idle and rust? Is it not, therefore, plainly to the interest of the poor man that, on the whole, expensive ties are kept up—expensive, unquestionably, in themselves, but at the same time producing the greatest benefits to us.

But beyond this, beyond the fact that our Colonies furnish our only sure and safe resource for our ever-increasing family, there is something in the glory of being the mother of many nations that England would never willingly give up. Through them we have planted the English flag, the grand English literature, and love of law and liberty, all over the world.

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Foreign scholars have predicted that the Anglo-Saxon tongue will shortly predominate and English institutions prevail throughout the world. Certainly, never before was known so extended an empire, nor was there ever at any time so much freedom and happiness given to the humblest Colonist. Before the outbreak in America, we were always told that our Colonists were quite behind that great and fast country; and denunciations were fond of telling the people that free development was to be found only in the great Republic. The cruellest and filiest which are being enacted in that State are the instant despotism into which the Republic fell, the suspension of Habeas Corpus, the proclamation of military law, the thorough helplessness of the people, and the imbecility of the Government; the utter corruption into which all the Senate, and indeed all officials, had long fallen—all these facts certainly present a mass of evidence in favor of the Colonies. There are many Americans who are now ready to own that the separation of America from England took place far too soon; and that had the United States kept under our rule until the time when we emancipated our slaves, all this bloodshed would have been avoided.

Such reflections will make our Colonies pause before they cut the tie which binds us, and a new generation of statesmen,

with water and water views, will by that time have grown up; so that, should the time come when Victoria, Queen-land or Canada, should think fit to quit our side, they will, we hope, do so in such a manner the reciprocal benefits, a reciprocal respect, and a lasting love shall be for ever maintained between the new countries and the nation which gave them birth.—*Family Herald.*

The Foot-Head of the Jivaro.

BY WM. HOLLAND, F.R.G.S.

ON the eastern side of the Republic of Ecuador, formerly known as Quito, live a tribe of Indians called Jivaro, a strange, wild people, dwelling in the midst of a most beautiful mountainous country, rich with tropical vegetation and dense forests, and including in its wild grandeur the by no means inconsiderable volcano of Macas. There may be found, among other valuable vegetable productions, the handsome mahogany, sandal, and ebony trees, the cinchona, India-rubber, copal, storax, indigo, guayana, cacao, etc., most of them well known to civilized life, and all of them deserving to be so for their useful properties and capacities. The laurel or wax-palm is very abundant, the wax being obtained by merely scraping it off the bark. Cotton, of a long fiber, strong, and of a fine quality, grows there indigently; no limits could be put to its circulation, and the Amazon affords an easy shipment to Europe. Coffee and cocoa grow freely. The guayana, a plant which the Indians cultivate near their huts, might probably compete with tea from China in the English market, as it has a similar aromatic flavor without bitterness. Canelo is a species of cinnamon; the ishipingo is the calyx of its flower. It is equal in flavor to the best East-India cinnamon, and three thousand to four thousand pounds of it are annually gathered. A wholesome and nourishing drink is made from the *Jatropha manihot*, and this valuable root is of almost universal use as food, and for many other purposes throughout Ecuador, New-Granada, and Peru. The Torquilla palm is most abundant, and yields the beautiful straw used in making the Panama hats.

In addition to all this vegetable productiveness and wealth, this favored district is rich in gold, and may boast of having the famous auriferous mountain of Llanganato within its boundaries. The natives are not slow in turning this to their own account, and quickly collect for the traders an ample supply of the precious metal to exchange for their much-coveted goods. The fertility of the soil is, in a great measure, to be attributed to its plentiful irrigation, not only by the smaller rivers, Chunchipe, Pastaza, and Marañon, but likewise by the mighty Amazon, of which they are tributaries; and it is in the forests among these rivers that the Jivaro Indians now make their homes. They are an ancient and warlike

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The Jivaro are a warlike, brave, and astute people; they love liberty, and can tolerate no yoke. Their bodies are muscular, they have small and very animated black eyes, aquiline noses, and thin lips. Many have beards and fair complexions, most probably arising from the numbers of Spanish women they captured in the insurrection of 1599. They have fixed homes, cultivate yucas, maize, beans, and plantains, and their women wear cotton cloth. They live in well-built huts made of wood, and sleep in fixed bed-places instead of hammocks. Their lances are made of the Chonta palm, the head being triangular, thirty to fifty inches long, and ten to fifteen inches broad. They are accustomed to take a strong emetic every morning, consisting of an infusion of guayusa or tea-plant, for the sake of getting