

**A COLONIST ON
THE COLONIAL
QUESTION**

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A colonist on the colonial question by Jehu Mathews

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JEHU MATHEWS

**A COLONIST ON
THE COLONIAL
QUESTION**

A COLONIST
ON
THE COLONIAL QUESTION.

BY
J E H U M A T H E W S,
OF
TORONTO, CANADA.



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OF CANADA, IN THE YEAR 1872, BY JERU MATHEWS, IN
THE OFFICE OF THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE.

PREFACE.

THE PURPOSE of the accompanying treatise may be explained in a few words. 'Colonial Emancipation' is now warmly advocated by a pretty strong party in England, and the policy adopted by the Gladstone Administration would seem to indicate that the minds of some of our leading statesmen are becoming imbued with 'emancipationist' principles. These principles appear to me to be highly incorrect; but I am forced to admit that the present relationship of Fatherland and Colonies cannot possibly form the basis of a permanent connection, and that, in the absence of a modification of the terms of union, a disruption of the Empire is not likely to be long delayed. I have consequently sought to set forth the reasons which lead me to believe that 'emancipation' would be at once most disastrous to England and very

mischievous to the Colonies ; and have endeavoured to prove that in the application of the Federal system of government to the Empire is to be found the means, not only of averting disruption, with all its evils, but also of permanently strengthening the integrity of the Empire, and largely augmenting the benefits of imperial unity.

The controversial character of the earlier part of the work is to me a matter of regret. But I felt that I should not be doing justice to the subject were I to lay before my readers only one side of the case, and that in no manner was it possible to bring both sides before them so effectually as by allowing the opponents of my own views to speak for themselves. Our controversy is merely in reference to the means whereby the interests of our fellow-countrymen may best be advanced.

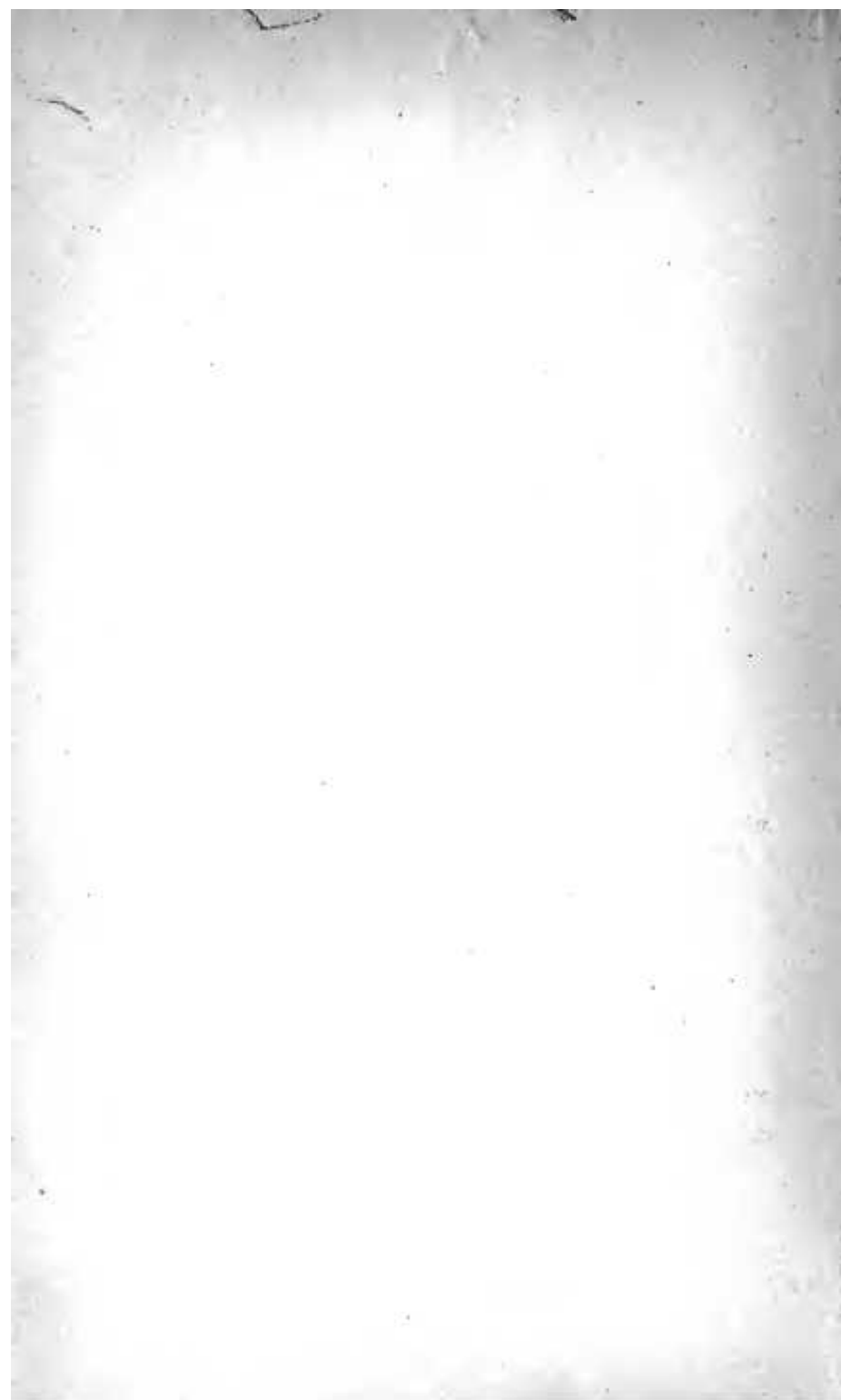
I do not for a moment suppose that I have exhausted the immense subject under review. The labours of our wisest statesmen and most careful thinkers would be requisite for the accomplishment of that task. My highest hope is that what I have written may perhaps induce some such men to turn their attention to it. Since the

MS. was completed, I have had the pleasure of seeing that in the second series of 'Short Studies on Great Subjects' one of the latter has already done so.

I must warn English readers against taking me for an exponent of Colonial, or even of Canadian, public opinion. The policy which I recommend has not been sufficiently discussed to admit of the formation of any public opinion on the subject. I speak to my countrymen both at home and in the Colonies, but for nobody except myself.

J. M.

TORONTO: *March 9, 1872.*



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