

PREFACE

THIS brief work is an attempt to explain the influence which the mother country exerts upon colonies, and which colonies in turn exert upon the mother country—for good or evil. It is largely the result of personal observation in parts of the world controlled by the great colonizing powers. We Americans have now a Colonial Empire to administer, and we cannot afford to be indifferent to a matter which has in times past profoundly modified the constitution of nearly every great civilized nation. An effort has here been made to point out why one country has failed and another succeeded. It is our hope that earnest people may ultimately induce Congress to establish a National University for the study of subjects in which a colonial official should be proficient. We need a species of Colonial West Point; we owe it to our fellow-men—whether they be Spanish or Tagalog; Chinese or Malay; Papist or Pagan; East or West Indian—that we give them a government based on business principles. We can expect no assistance in Washington until one of the great political parties is made to feel the effect of an awakened public conscience.

I cannot adequately express my obligation to the many who have helped me in my task—friends scattered in all corners of the world, missionaries, mer-

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chants, soldiers, sailors, consuls, and natives. Many of these cannot be quoted because of their official relations.

As to works on this subject, there are many excellent ones suggested by such names as Zimmermann, Lucas, Morris, Woodrow Wilson, Theall. But the subject is one that enfolds the earth, and requires for its discussion a basis of facts which are but feebly supplied by the official reports of administrators. If many of my conclusions vary from those current it will be found that I have drawn less from official reports than from personal inquiry and observation.

POULTNEY BIGELOW.

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