

a debt of gratitude, which grows with the growing years, to an Archdeacon of the Church of England, who lived his life to inspire Englishmen with the highest motives for Empire. His is a very extraordinary case of large and lasting influence produced, not by originality of thought or brilliancy of expression, but by single-minded, patient and patriotic industry in setting forth to his countrymen what had been done, and what it was, as he conceived it, their duty to do. As he was an original member of the Virginia Company, so was Bacon of the Bristol and London Company, formed in 1610 for the colonisation of Newfoundland, and specially associated with the name of the Bristol alderman, John Guy.

There are various passages in Bacon's writings which bear on the Empire, wise and enlightened beyond his day. Take first his letter of advice to King James dated February 25, 1615-6, in regard to the export of cloth. 'I do confess I did ever think that trading in companies is most agreeable to the English nature, which wanteth that same general vein of a republic which runneth in the Dutch and serveth to them instead of a company; and therefore I dare not advise to adventure this great trade of the Kingdom (which hath been so long under government) in a free or loose trade.'¹ 'Under government' meant under the government of a company, the powerful company of the Merchant Adventurers of England, who for generations under their successive patents and charters had controlled the export of

¹ *Letters and Life of Francis Bacon* (1869), edited by James Spedding, vol. v, p. 259.