

tinued to lead plantations ; and those colonies which were plantations in the true sense, human plantations, if not considered, as they were by not a few Englishmen, to be a net loss to the Mother Country, were valued in terms of trade. The British Empire overseas inspired Chatham to appeal to British patriotism and to the nobler instincts of his countrymen, but its economic value expressed itself to him no less than to Walpole in terms of trade. The eighteenth century was for England a century of exceptionally strong contrasts, of immense gains and losses, a century of force, of conquest and defeat, on the face of it a most materialist century. Amidst its many wars there was one long interlude of comparative peace, when Robert Walpole was in power, and Walpole was pre-eminently an embodiment of materialism and a high priest of trade. Yet it was an age which produced William Law, Oglethorpe and John Wesley. The early years of the century, which saw the victories of Marlborough, saw also two very notable and most salutary coalitions. The first was the Union of England and Scotland, dating from May 1, 1707.

It is true that Scottish sentiment resented the Union, and sore feeling at the loss of legislative independence lasted long in Scotland. But the Union put an end once for all to ruinous national competition between the two peoples, and it obviously promoted the interests of the Lowlands and the trading classes, bringing immense expansion to Glasgow as an Atlantic port.¹

¹ 'The opening a free trade, not only with England, but with the plantations, and the protection of the fleet of England, drew in those who understood these matters and saw there was no other way in view to make the nation rich and considerable. Those who had