In the British Empire many revolutionary changes took place from the 1850s. In my thesis I focused on the analysis of those issues and phenomena which are sufficiently reflected in the English-language belles-lettres, along with a comparison of topics in a historical context in those thematic areas where the comparison is possible, but even in those where possibility of feedback is missing. Given the specificity of the whole work is an introduction and conclusion concerns the question of literary texts as a study of sources. The aim is to answer the question whether the use of belles-lettres as a source in this particular topic is possible, and if so, under what conditions.