

face of the young man a new expression of pride and impiety, whilst that of the dark unknown flashed with a smile of triumph. The lightning bow swept the chords with a flourish of savage joy. The eyes of the two artists flashed rays of light, one blue and the other black, and the pianist and the violinist, like two rebellious spirits, began to blaspheme in concert and to cast furious defiance towards heaven.

At that moment a violent blast drove in the second window with force. The curtains torn from their settings, floated like white wings over the heads of the virtuosi. The piano and violin still continued to play. Vivid flashes lightened the dark outline of the violinist, showing his cadaverous features and his long fingers, like snakes running over the strings, and the ghastly paleness of the young man, his fair hair erect with fear, his eyes fixed and glaring.

The piano and violin still played. A clap of thunder, deep and prolonged, shook the hall and was followed by a heavy shower of rain and rattling hail of such size that it shivered all the glass in the windows. The piano and violin played the finale of the sonata with fury.

At the last bar, when several chords broke, the exhausted young man ceased and fainted at his seat.

During the time that some were proceeding to his assistance, the mysterious virtuoso had disappeared.

The younger of the two artists—he who had fainted—was Franz Liszt; the other was the great Paganini.

I ALLEN JACK.

## GLIMPSES AT THINGS.

### THE UNIFICATION OF THE EMPIRE.

The paper of most interest to Canadians in the twenty-fifth volume of the "Proceedings of the Royal Colonial Institute," is Sir Charles Tupper's "Canada in relation to the unity of the Empire." It was read before the Institute on the 8th of last May, and, as will be remembered, evoked sharp criticisms, which are fully reported in the volume now before me. As Sir Charles Tupper's views on the subject have been pretty well advertised, I shall devote my space chiefly to presenting the arguments of his critics.

Admiral Sir John Colomb observed in the course of his remarks:

"There is a true and a false Imperialism, and I say it is a false Imperialism for our great colonies to refuse to look their obligations in the face. It means peril and disaster in the time of war. The other point I wish to make is this—that if Canada were to join the United States, . . . or to become an independent nation, she would have to pay for defence far more heavily than she does now. . . . Switzerland has a population of under three millions; Canada has a population of five millions; Switzerland has a revenue of three and three-quarter millions; Canada has a revenue of seven and a quarter millions; on defence Switzerland pays £1,200,000 a year, while Canada pays only £282,000 a year. . . .

I pass the consideration of the Canadian Pacific Railway. I admit that that was a great undertaking, for which Canada deserves every credit. But who is going to defend that line in case Canada is attacked by the United States. ("Canadian troops.") What, 5,000,000 people alone against 60,

000,000? Has the gentleman studied war? I say that that railway has added to the responsibilities of the Empire . . . for an invading army getting possession of it could dominate Canada from one end to the other. . . .

It is not by fine phrases and grand perorations that this empire is to be preserved, but by facing the facts. . . .

Two portions of the Empire desire, and rightly desire, to improve their communications, and with that view seek to establish a cable and a mail route. Now, these portions of the Empire—Canada and Australasia—have an aggregate population equal to that of Scotland, Ireland and Wales all put together. They have a revenue nearly equal to about one-half the total revenue of the United Kingdom, and they have a sea-trade nearly double that of Russia. They come and ask us to find a considerable portion of the money, and base their claim on the ground that the work would contribute to the safety of the Empire in time of war. Now, a cable and a sea-line cannot defend themselves, and I ask, does it show hostility to inquire who is going to pay for the defence? . . . We are asked to subsidise a line of fast mail steamers in order to create a new line. But the reason we subsidise such steamers is in order to take them off their routes when war breaks out—not to keep them on the lines, but to take them off. . . . That being so, away goes the theory that there will be this alternative route in war. . . .

I see nothing in the paper to recall to the minds of the loyal people of Canada the fact that they have great Imperial duties to perform."

Mr. R. R. Dobell, who generally agreed with the lecturer, observed: "I am glad Sir John Colomb wishes to strengthen those bonds (between the Colonies and Great Britain), because the last occasion I heard him speak I thought there must have been many Sir John Colombes when Great Britain lost the Colonies that now form the United States." This seems a little hard, considering that Admiral Colomb has always been willing to couple imperial representation with all taxation for imperial purposes. Towards the close of his speech Mr. Dobell remarked: "Never since the world's history began has there been such an example of a country which has expended blood and treasure to establish and strengthen her colonies and then hand the heirship of them over to the inhabitants. To Canada Great Britain handed over the fortresses and crown lands and all the money she had expended for 100 years, without asking one penny in return; and quite recently she handed over to a mere handful the colony of Western Australia—a country which may be valued by millions. I would desire to crush and stamp out sentiments such as those expressed by Sir John Colomb about the colonies not being prepared to do their utmost for the defence of this great Empire. My own impression is that there is not a man in Canada to-day who would not be prepared to spend his life and fortune to maintain the honour and dignity of this great Empire."

This confident outburst does credit to the heart of Mr. Dobell. Yet Hon. Joseph Howe, who was quite as loyal and nearly as sanguine as Mr. Dobell, agreed with Sir John Colomb that it was true statesmanship for Britain to have a definite contract or compact with her colonies and to cease leaning on presumptions. "Suppose this policy

(of partnership between the colonies and Britain) propounded and the appeal made, and that the response is a determined negative," wrote Howe, who felt that full imperial citizenship was the proper pendant to the responsible government which he had won for his province. "Even in that case it would be wise to make it (the appeal to the colonies). . . . But I will not for a moment do my fellow-colonists the injustice to suspect that they will decline a fair compromise of a question which involves at once their own protection and the consolidation and security of the Empire. At all events, if there are any Communists of British origin anywhere, who desire to enjoy all the privileges and immunities of the Queen's subjects without paying for and defending them, let us ascertain where and who they are—let us measure the proportions of political repudiation now, in a season of tranquillity, when we have leisure to gauge the extent of the evil and to apply correctives rather than wait till war finds us unprepared and leaning on presumptions in which there is no reality."

Among several other eminent men who took part in the discussion at the Royal Colonial Institute was Mr. G. R. Parkin, the apostle of federation, who values the whole Empire more than any part of it, and has declined a safe nomination for the Imperial Parliament that he may be able to fight more freely and effectively for his great cause. "Now," he asked, "why has the Dominion been able to spend these immense sums in the directions indicated (on internal improvements) instead of giving a larger part of it to military and naval defence? Because, in the good course of Providence, she like other British colonies, was under the protection of the mightiest power that ever held a shield over a people, and which practically said, 'You need not spend your money in preparing to fight; we leave you free to develop your enormous resources.' . . . Incidentally we have been doing our best to build up the Empire. But the time must come when every Canadian must ask, 'How is our flag and our extending commerce protected?' The question I have asked is, 'Do you pretend that we are (not?) to take part in the defence of the Empire and pay for the army and navy?' and in almost every large Canadian town I have declared that I would be ashamed of the name of Canadian if we were not willing to take the responsibility of our increasing growth."

In his speech closing the debate, Sir Charles Tupper made this important explanation: "When I referred to the services Canada has rendered to the unity and strength of the Empire by various measures taken since the confederation, I mentioned them not as a full discharge of the obligations of Canada to the Empire, but as an earnest and as the best possible evidence of what she would be prepared to do in the future." I have italicised these words the better to disprove a cruel suspicion that Sir Charles was preparing, for supposed party expediency, to betray the grandest cause he ever espoused.

F. BLAKE CROFTON.

Whosoever commands the sea commands the trade; whosoever commands the trade of the world commands the riches of the world, and consequently the world itself. —Sir Walter Raleigh.