

familiar to the active man of to-day, and he talks about them as if their aspect and importance would never seem belittled by the lapse of time. There is a shrinking from the thought and trouble involved in the slightest constitutional change. Time-honoured institutions must be modified and old historic landmarks removed; let us leave well alone, for 'to-morrow shall be as this day, and much more abundantly.' If ever the crisis should arise when the Federative problem must be faced, the worshipper of traditional precedent fancies that he will be found equal to it; but the time has not yet arrived. The ship of Imperial state floats smoothly and swimmingly down the current; when about to 'shoot Niagara,' the captain *s' avisera*. In short, the first and chief commandment of the political decalogue enjoins the statesman never to do to-day what he can put off till to-morrow. On the other hand, Lord Beaconsfield, with Semitic inspiration, has fastened upon the Federal idea as if it were the idle pageant of a dream. His Federal Empire would be an oriental fancy, as unpractical as it would be anachronistic. Let the question be once decided, however, that Federation is a necessity, and it will go hard with Anglo-Saxon intelligence and ingenuity but a practicable scheme will be speedily forthcoming. The plea of distance between Britain and her Colonies is a palpable absurdity. Is Canada farther away now, in these days of cable telegraphs, ocean steamboats, and railways, than Kerry was in 1798, or Inverness not so many years ago? Is it farther off even now than California, Oregon, or New Mexico are from Washington? All difficulties of this sort are merely flies on the wheel of progress; what must be done to consolidate the British Empire will be done, as certainly as that to-morrow's sun will pass under review, with the successive hours, the vast domain Britain can call her own. For the present a Representative Council would be a fitting inauguration of the new *régime*. India has its Advisory Council, and notwithstanding Lord Blachford's objection, its views do not fetter either Lord Salisbury or Lord Lytton. Why should not the Colonies take some part in matters which concern the Empire as a whole? For our part, we believe that a revival and reconstruction of the Privy Council on its old basis,

and with enlarged powers, would afford the means ready at hand to set the Imperial machinery to work. Every reader of constitutional history knows what that venerable body once was, and how the Cabinet, originally a mere committee unknown to the Constitution, gradually usurped all its functions. There is now a splendid opportunity for rehabilitating the time-honoured Privy Council of England, and making it the Representative Council of a Federated Empire. By a plan of that sort, any jealousy caused by tampering with the House of Lords, or any trepidation amongst the heroes of red tape, might be obviated. As we before remarked, however, the all-important need of the hour is a clear expression of opinion against separation, against annexation, and firmly and definitively for Federation; the *modus operandi* will soon disclose itself.

The complete scheme of University examinations for women has at length been laid before the public. Unfortunately, lack of space will prevent any full discussion of the plan in this number; but it is a subject which may be conveniently reserved for a more favourable opportunity. Let us here briefly sketch the 'Statutory Provisions' adopted by the Senate. The examinations are to be held in Toronto, or at such other places as comply with the conditions. There must be a local committee guaranteeing the attendance of at least six candidates, and also the expenses incurred. The local committee itself must be approved of by the Senate, as well as its regulations. Board and lodging are to be provided at reasonable rates by the committee, and two of its members must superintend the examination. The subjects are mainly the same as those stated in these pages a couple of months since. This part of the scheme we do not propose to analyze at present, merely adding that the examinations are to be held in June, simultaneously with the ordinary June examinations for matriculation. Now it need hardly be said that to those who desire a complete and thorough scheme for higher female education, the Senate provisions must appear sadly inadequate. The burden of securing a local examination in any of our centres of population is left to voluntary effort. A young woman, not