

sorption of Canada into the British Empire. And this not as Frenchmen, but as Canadians.

The dread that Mr. Bourassa identifies with British Imperialism is a phantom born of the haze in which he confounds two principles entirely distinct—the centralizing Napoleonic ideal and the “*Imperium et Libertas*,” which is ours. Now one strong reason why our British Imperialism should be supported is because it is the surest safeguard against the centralization that Mr. Bourassa fears. Like a good many others of both sections of Canada’s people, he is satisfied with the existing régime which, like the joyous brook, he would have go on forever, without any effort on our part.

We know of no more effective answer to this plea of *laissez faire* than an article published in this magazine some years ago by an able ex-colleague of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and since republished in his book on “The English in Africa.” Judge Mills, asking his readers to consider the probable effects of the fall of England, supplies the missing sequel to Mr. Bourassa’s argument. With French garrisons in Halifax and Quebec, with Russians in

occupation of British Columbia, with New Zealand, Australia and India wrested from England’s hands, the future would, Judge Mills thinks, look dark both for the United States and Canada. He gives his reasons, and those who read them will, we are sure, admit that the appeal of enlightened Imperialism to Colonial loyalty is justified. The whole eloquent passage on the Rights and Responsibilities of the Colonies, which closes the volume already mentioned, should be studied by those who would know what true Imperialism (or at least one important phase of it) really means, how far it is from inviting absorption and how necessary it is to secure the continued and unimpaired enjoyment of the constitutional rights that we now enjoy.

That the British Empire is the last word, the ultimate expression of mankind’s highest aspirations, we need not and do not believe. But as a school of freedom and of the political virtues we know of nothing better either in history or modern practice. As a transition stage to the millennial state it deserves to be supported, and if necessary, fought for.

A NERO OF THE TRANSVAAL

By Andrew Miller, Strathcona’s Horse

HISTORY tells of atrocities committed whereby thousands were tortured or put to cruel death to satisfy the ambition of some tyrant of bygone ages. We like to think of these things as associated with a period of the world’s history which can never return. That such a condition of affairs should have existed in any portion of the civilized world until within two years ago, seems improbable, yet in the north-eastern portion of the Transvaal colony there has lived a tyrant as cruel as any Nero, and compared with whom the Sultan of Turkey is a saint. His name is Erasmus—the same General Eras-

mus whose capture by General Bruce Hamilton was reported by Lord Kit-chener on January 3rd. For years before the present war broke out he had been the personal friend and counsellor of Paul Kruger, the deposed President of the Transvaal. He was a man who would shrink at nothing which promised to secure for him riches or position.

Erasmus was first appointed landrost at Lydenburg, but rose so rapidly in Kruger’s favour that within a few years—about 1876—he was created the representative head of the Transvaal Government in the Lydenburg district,