

On the subject of an Imperial Parliament, with self-government by local assemblies, also treated in a recent number, Mr. Brodrick, in a late volume of "Cobden Club Essays," makes the following suggestive remarks:—"The National Legislature would be relieved of the weight of purely local business, which is now proving greater than it can bear; and, without encroaching on the province of Imperial sovereignty, local government (in Great Britain he means) might once more become a great constitutional power, intermediate between the State and the individual citizen: the permanent bulwark of social order, and the national school of civil liberty."

Thus we see opinion is ripening in many directions towards the organization of a great Britannic Federation.

The Moon: Her Motions, Aspect, Scenery, and Physical Condition.
By RICHARD PROCTOR, B.A. Cr. 8vo., pp. 384. New York: D. Appleton. Methodist Book Rooms.

There is a strange fascination in the study of our nearest neighbour among the heavenly bodies—so near and yet so far, so mysterious, so little known after ages of unwearied questioning. This book is probably the most complete treatise, which, in a popular manner, discusses this subject.

The best telescopes bring the moon, for observational purposes, practically within forty miles of the earth. Mr. Proctor gives several fine photographs and engravings of the rugged volcanic scenery, the frightful precipices and gorges that even to the naked eyes mottle the whiteness of her face. It is evidently a lifeless waste, a burned out, blasted world. At mid-noon of its long month-day its rocky surface glows with the heat of 500° Fahrenheit; and at midnight it is chilled by frightful rigours of frost. The huge orb of the earth, hanging in her sky, turns round successively her mighty

continents and seas, but there is no eye to note their wondrous scenery. Mr. Proctor thinks that the gigantic scars that have pitted, as with a frightful smallpox, the face of the moon, may have been caused by the rain of huge meteors upon her viscid surface, and that the ridges, hundreds of miles long, were caused by the shrinkage and crumpling of her rock-ribbed sides. Her oceans and atmosphere, if she ever had any, may have retired within huge caverns in her interior. In opposition to the nebular hypothesis, our author conceives that our solar system was formed by the collision and aggregation of meteors attracted from space, as shown in his "Other Worlds than Ours." But whence came the original meteors?

Words: Their Use and Abuse. By WILLIAM MATTHEWS, LL.D. Cr. 8vo., pp. 384. S. C. Griggs & Co.; Methodist Book Room.

The study of words is a very fascinating one, and is every year receiving more and more attention. It reveals living forces and hidden treasures in language before undreamt of, and gives increased facility and skill in the use of these ministers of thought. At the same time no study is so apt, unless it be guided by sound judgment, to lead to false and even absurd conclusions.

Prof. Matthews' book is one of the best we have seen on the subject; but some of his derivations are fantastic and far-fetched, and some of them are altogether erroneous. For instance, he derives *menial* from the Norman *meinez*, many. Much better is that given by Blackstone in his Commentaries—from *mænia*, walls, tropically a house. Of this derivation both Johnson and Webster seem unaware. Neither is *sincere* derived "from the practice of filling up flaws in furniture with wax, whence *sine cera* came to mean pure, not vamped up or adulterated." It is rather from the practice of straining the wax out of honey, which was then *sine cera*,