

Jingo who was present must have been stricken to the heart. He must have longed to be on horseback, sword in hand.

—Australian Federation has apparently come to the birth. We shall presently see whether there is strength to bring forth. It is curious that the Australians seem to be, like Sir Charles. Dilke and other English observers, or rather non-observers, of Canada in a fool's paradise about the success of Canadian Confederation and to imagine that they have only to follow where Canada has led the way. Has it never occurred to them to send an independent inquirer to this country and enjoin him to extend his political interrogations beyond Ottawa or the Governor-General's residence at Quebec? They do not even seem aware that the establishment of a Federal Government will entail, as it has entailed here, an enormous development not only of expenditure but of faction, demagogism and corruption. Two difficulties they will have peculiar to themselves, that of agreeing on a capital and that of reconciling fiscal systems, Victoria being wedded to Protection while New South Wales is equally wedded to Free Trade. We shall be rather surprised if after all the scheme takes effect. The belief prevails, not only that Federation is the political panacea, but that it is perfectly easy of accomplishment, though history says that it has been hitherto brought about only under strong pressure from without, such as that of the Spanish power on the insurgent Netherlands or that of England on the American colonies, and even then with the greatest difficulty. As soon as the subject of union is practically approached all the centrifugal forces are at once called into action, and if Australia succeeds in controlling them she will deserve to be called the mother of statesmen.

—The Ides of May passed without any event fatal or even menacing to European society and civilization. That the forces of order were organized, while those of disorder