

Trans Vaal Republic—the exports and imports of which now yearly amount to over seventeen millions of pounds sterling; but I will not again go into statistics. My object is to show you the importance of Federation. The interior of South Africa is boundless, the future wealth of it is enormous, the high table lands and fertile valleys are capable of producing everything in the world, and Dame Nature has been so lavish in her bounties that, in some of these tracts, man does not live by the "sweat of his brow," but subsists, like the beasts of the field, on what nature provides. The very grass yields seed like corn, I have seen it sold in the market at Grahamstown under the name of "wanna," the food from heaven.

Well, sir, as the flood circulates through man, going from and returning to the heart, so, with Federation, will commerce flow through South Africa, to and from England; but without this unity, the great interior will be tapped by arteries, that will run crossways and cut off the smaller streams flowing inwards, thus carrying the commerce of the great future eastward, away from England and into other countries. Gentlemen this is a most important consideration for this country and for South Africa.

But, sir, I go beyond this in my idea of Federation: I say that England should herself federate with all the British Colonies. The present ties are becoming rarer and more broken, whereas they should be brought closer and closer together. You may ask, How is this to be done? and I will tell you. Each British Colony should have a representative in this country, and that representative should have a seat in the British House of Parliament. It might be said that such a member would be incompatible with the Constitution, as the Colonies do not directly contribute to the expenditure of this country. Granted; but let the representative member sit in the House all the same. Do not let him vote, but let him speak, particularly upon all Colonial subjects.

I say, sir, that the ignorance displayed in the House of Commons when any Colonial subject crops up is something monstrous, not only by members, but by ex-Colonial Ministers, who ought to know better; and I assure this fact will present itself to most Colonists here to night.

It would be the duty of such representative to bring forward the requirements and wishes of the Colony from which he is deputed, and when any case arises in the House concerning the Colony, he should be able to rise and make a clear statement of facts on the subject. This would bring the bond of union between England and her Colonies into more harmony.

I would go beyond even this. I would offer Federation to every people or nation speaking the English language. I would offer it to the great Anglo-Saxon Race who parted from England on this very question: it would be holding out the right hand of fellowship to the great American people, and if it did nothing else it would draw us closer together in friendship and alliance.

Such nationality has become the great policy of the day. Look at Italy: look at Germany and Prussia. The latter from a series of independent kingdoms, has become a vast empire, and almost a standing menace to Europe. Her organized army now consists of 2,420,000 men, with a standing army in peace time (1874) of 401,659 exclusive of the one year volunteers. In opposition to this, I say, gentlemen, that if England federated with her great Colonies, they

could and would, in the event of war or any great calamity, bring great resources in both men and money to aid the parent country.

Ladies and gentlemen, looking round me, and seeing as I do many Cape friends and South African Colonists, I am impelled as a last word to pay a tribute of respect to the memory of one of South Africa's most worthy heroes and defenders—a man who would have been great had he lived in any part of the world, but one who made that country his home, gave his substance for the good of it, and his life in its defence. I am sure I need not tell you that I allude to the late Sir Walter Currie, a man loved and respected by his friends, and respected yet dread by his country's enemies; followed so soon to the grave by his devoted wife, a lady beloved equally by rich and poor—by the one for her virtues and hospitality, by the other for her friendliness and charity.

#### Mr. Lowe's Apology.

In the House of Commons on the 4th instant, Mr. Lowe, as the telegraph has already informed us, apologized for his speech at Retford, in which he said that the Queen had twice tried to induce Prime Ministers to introduce a bill to give her the title of Empress of India. The following are his remarks in full:—

Mr. Lowe—May I ask the permission of the House to make a short personal statement? (Hear, hear.) I was on Tuesday evening precluded by the strict rules of the House from saying anything with respect to the communication from Her Majesty which was then made to the House. At the same time I feel little doubt that, had I asked the House for their indulgence, it would have been granted to me. (Hear, hear.) I thought on the whole, being entirely unprepared for any such statement, that it would be more respectful to Her Majesty, and that I should be more likely to conduct myself with due propriety in the matter if I took forty eight hours to consider in what manner I should deal with so very new and unexpected an event. (Hear, hear.) I have employed that time in consideration, and I humbly request the House to listen to me while I tell them the little I have to say upon the subject. (Hear, hear.) The statement I made at Retford, and has been made the subject of Her Majesty's communication, I believed to be true at the time I made it; but although I believed it to be true, I must frankly acknowledge that I ought not to have made the statement. (Cheers.) I acknowledge that it was wrong to make it; and it was wrong because no one has a right—and no one looking at the matter calmly and dispassionately, feels this more than I do to drag the name of the Sovereign, even directly, into our disputes in this House. (Cheers.) I sincerely regret that I did not remember the fact that in the whole of the Queen's dominions Her Majesty is, by reason of her sovereign dignity, the only person upon whom is imposed the disability of not being able to say anything in personal defence. (Hear, hear.) That alone, if there was no other reason, ought to have closed my mouth, and I hope the House will consider my acknowledgment both full and ample. (Cheers.) But, sir, that is not all. After the communication which Her Majesty has been pleased to make I cannot doubt for a moment that I was entirely mistaken in what I asserted (cheers); and nothing remains for me except to express my most sincere and extreme regret, as one who is wholly and heartily a dutiful and

loyal subject of Her Majesty, that by my fault—a fault that I admit I have caused Her Majesty to have been put to what she will have felt the disagreeable necessity of making a communication on such a subject to the House—a necessity that ought never to have been imposed upon her. (Cheers.) I most sincerely regret that I was the means of fixing the necessity upon Her Majesty. I cannot doubt that I was entirely mistaken. I retract everything that I said, and, if such a thing be proper from a subject to his sovereign, I humbly offer my most sincere apologies to Her Majesty for the error that I have committed. (Loud cheers.)

#### REVIEWS.

The *Edinburgh Review*, for April, reprint ed by the Leonard Scott Publishing Co., 41 Braclay Street, New York, is now on our table. Contents as follows:

1. Cannon Thirlwall, Bishop of St. David's.
2. Recent Scotch Novels.
3. Railway Receipts and Railway Losses.
4. Lord Mayo's Indian Administration.
5. Merchant Shipping and Ancient Commerce.
6. Lord Albermarle's Reminiscences.
7. Cipponi's History of the Republic of Florence.
8. Secondary Education in Scotland.
9. Life and Letters of Lord Macaulay.

The article on Thirlwall, of whose writings the most widely known are the *History of Greece* and the pamphlet on the admission of Dissenters to academic degrees, gives a sketch of his career, dwelling at some length on his literary labors, his character, and teachings, and especially his manner of dealing with Ritualism.

"Recent Scotch Novels" is a brief history of Scotch Novels, from the time of Sir Walter Scott to the present day, illustrated with many extracts and critical comments.

The article on Railway discusses the comparative cost of merchandise and passenger traffic, and the effect of increase of speed on running expenses.

In the following article we have an account of the condition of India, at the time when Lord Mayo was appointed Viceroy, and of the beneficial effects of his rule.

The review of Lansay's *Merchant Shipping and Commerce* treats of the early history of navigation, and the development of naval energy and maritime enterprise. Many curious details will be found here early relative to early maritime law and usages, the galleys of the middle ages, early battles by sea, the difficulties of ancient navigation, origin of nautical terms, and piracy (in early naval history not a term of opprobrium): "capturing a foreign merchant ship, throwing her crew overboard, or selling them as slaves, and appropriating the cargo, was a slightly irregular but by no means dishonorable proceeding."

"Lord Abermarle's Reminiscences" is reviewed, with many extracts, and described as one of the most amusing books of its class.

"Cipponi's History of Florence" affords a text for an exposition of the internal workings of the Florentine democracy; and the review of the *Life and Letters of Lord Macaulay* furnishes a portrait of the man which will be prized by those who have hitherto only known the historian.

The periodicals reprinted by the Leonard Scott Publishing Company (41 Barclay Street, N. Y.) are as follows: *The London Quarterly*, *Edinburgh*, *Westminster*, and *British Quarterly Reviews*, and *Blackwood's Magazine*. Price, \$1 a year for any one, or only \$15 for all, and the Postage is prepaid by the Publishers.