

accomplishment of the idea. Electricity and steam have annihilated time and distance, while the enterprise of the press and the diffusion of political intelligence among all classes enable colonists in Australia and Canada, as well as Englishmen, or Scotchmen, or Irishmen in the British Isles, to understand and discuss intelligently all the great issues that interest England and her Colonial Empire. No one can question the ability of Australians or Canadians, educated as they are in parliamentary government, to take an intelligent and effective part in the councils of the Empire; the only difficulty that suggests itself is how they can be best brought into those councils.

The present relations between the mother-country and her dependencies, are certainly anomalous and inconsistent. The union between them is, to a great extent, purely sentimental in its character. Canada owns allegiance to one sovereign, accepts her accredited representative with every demonstration of respectful loyalty, and acknowledges her imperial obligations by sustaining a militia at her own expense, and offering some regiments in a time of imperial emergency. In all other respects, however, Canada virtually occupies the position of an independent state, without its onerous responsibilities; for she can frame her tariff, and even fix her militia expenses solely with regard to Canadian interests. On the other hand, England makes treaties with France or Spain or other countries, solely with a regard to her own commerce, and may to-morrow, in pursuance of some policy of her own, draw the whole empire into war, and though Canadians must be affected more or less by the results, they have no opportunity of expressing their approval or disapproval of that policy. Their trade may suffer, their cities and towns may be destroyed, in the progress of a conflict which, in its origin, had no interest for them as colonists, and though in the future as in the

past, they will cheerfully bear their full share of the responsibilities resting on them as the people of a dependency, yet all the while they must feel that their position is one of decided inferiority, compared with that of the people of England, who can alone control the destinies of the empire in matters of such supreme moment. It may be said, that England has hitherto borne the burthen of the labour and the expense necessary to enable the colonies to arrive at manhood, and that it is their turn now to take their share in the heat and toil of the day, and relieve the old parent somewhat in the present; but it will hardly be urged, because Canada has grown to maturity, she must continue to be practically a mere infant in the management of the affairs of the great family of which she forms a part, and is to keep up the family friendships and feuds, without having an opportunity of putting in a word now and then, on the one side or the other.

In several respects certainly, the interests of the whole empire ought to be identical. It is assuredly anomalous that each section of the empire should have a fiscal policy quite distinct from that of every other section—that the defensive system of Canada should be considered without reference to the necessities of Scotland, or any other part of the empire.

The necessities of the Parent State have driven millions of people during the last half century to seek new homes in America, but only a small proportion of this population has actually settled in Canada. A writer in an English Review has recently pointed out the dangers that must accrue to England from the policy of indifference which allows this emigration to settle in foreign countries. He calculates that England has *annually*, for over sixty years, made the United States a present of nearly \$100,000,000, and proceeds to show that it is only under a system of Imperial Federation that this stream of emigration can be di-