

the gerrymandering. It is contrary to the genius of responsible government that a small majority, possibly even a minority, of the electors in a province should be able to elect twice as many representatives as their opponents, in either Provincial or Dominion politics. Where shall a remedy be sought? If not in minority representation, can it be found in any system of cumulative voting?

SIR CHARLES TUPPER AND BRITISH FEDERATIONISTS.

We commented last week on Lord Brassey's rejoinder to what seemed to us the singularly ill-advised passage in Sir Charles Tupper's letter to Casimir Dickson, Esq., in which Sir Charles impugns the motives of the most active members of the Imperial Federation League in Great Britain, in connection with the report of the Committee appointed to draw up a scheme for the proposed Federation. We are now in receipt of a communication from Mr. A. H. Loring, Secretary of the League in England, requesting us to publish for the information of our readers who may have read Sir Charles Tupper's letter, the following notices of motion at the next meeting of the General Council:—

To be moved by Lord Roay, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E.: This Council regrets that Sir Charles Tupper should have stated in a letter to the Secretary of the League in Canada, 'that the most active members of the Imperial Federation League were mainly intent on levying a large contribution on the revenues of the Colonies for the support of the Army and Navy of Great Britain,' as his statement misrepresents the object which the most active members of the Imperial Federation League have in view, and is calculated to injure the successful working of the League.

To be moved by Sir John Colomb, K.C.M.G.: That this Council hereby affirms that none of its members seek to 'levy a large contribution on the revenues of the Colonies for the support of the army and navy of Great Britain,' but that in order to carry out the resolution upon which the League was founded in 1884, it does desire that the self-governing countries of the Empire should agree to share in some fair proportion in the administration and in the cost of its defence.

The Secretary encloses also a copy of the report of the special Committee, with the contents of which our readers are already more or less familiar; also a copy of the Fundamental Resolution adopted in November 1884, which is as follows:

'That any scheme of Imperial Federation should combine on an equitable basis the resources of the Empire for the maintenance of common interests, and adequately provide for an organized defence of common rights.'

We are aware that our attitude towards the great project of Imperial Federation does not entitle us to play the role of the mutual friend or adviser, but none the less we think it deeply to be regretted that anything should have arisen to mar the harmony which should prevail between the

most active and influential members of the League in England and its ardent Canadian promoter, the High Commissioner.

THE STUDY OF THE CLASSICS.*

The study of the Classics about which I am asked to say something to the Association is I fear an exhausted theme. There is really not very much to be added to what Milton said two hundred and fifty years ago.

The world has been moving rapidly during the last half century in this as in other respects. In my boyhood the classics were the education of the wealthy class in England. Even mathematics were not a part of our regular school work, but an extra. The mathematical teacher was not one of the regular staff; the members of the staff wore academical gowns and to them the boys took off their hats. It was said that when the mathematical master on his appointment asked the Provost whether he was to wear a gown the reply was "that is as you please." He then asked whether the boys were to take off their hats to him; the reply was "that is as they please." Our curriculum in the Upper School, that is for three, four, or even five years was the same—the Iliad, the Aeneid, Horace, a book of Greek prose extracts with a good deal of Lucian in it, a book of Greek poetic extracts with a good deal of Apollonius Rhodius in it, and a book of Latin prose extracts of a better kind. We said all the poetry afterwards by heart. The Iliad was our great book. It left its trace on character. Matthew Arnold has a story of an aged grandee who being asked to go on an arduous diplomatic mission from which he thought he would never return made up his wavering mind in favour of public duty by recalling the words of a hero in Homer. The sixth form read part of a Greek Play once a week with the head master. We read other classics in the pupil rooms of our tutors, in which relation each of the masters stood out of school to a certain number of boys. For the Newcastle Scholarship and Medal, for which we annually competed in Classics we studied by ourselves; and some boys before they left Eton had made the acquaintance of a very respectable number of authors. Each boy had a room to himself and everything favoured voluntary study. Great stress was laid on Greek and Latin composition, especially on the writing of Latin verses, an accomplishment which will soon be extinct, but in Eton in my day was the passport to the greatest honour and was really carried to a high point for boys, as a glance at the Musae Etonenses will show. Thus was trained the brilliant genius of Canning, and other scholarly statesmen of that stamp. But all this belongs to a past age; to the age of old Provost Goodall with his wig, knee breeches and buckles, who by his command of the Eton influence turned the Great Western Railway out of its course, and, as it was said, when the mail came by railroad would never have his letters brought before the time at which they ought to have come by coach. More than two generations have passed since in that old yard where we

* A paper read before the Classical Association, of Ontario, by Prof. Goldwin Smith, Hon. President, at the annual meeting, 1892.

assembled before school round the statue of our founder Henry the sixth, and where the forms of distinguished visitors were often seen, I took the hand of Napoleon's Marshal Soult and gazed on the Olympian brow of Daniel Webster. Eton is now reformed. Mathematics have been promoted to their proper place; science has been introduced. The life of an Eton boy has been made more profitable and laudable; happier it could not well be.

At Oxford, education was still classical, Mathematics holding nominally an equal but really a much lower place; while at Cambridge, owing to the influence of Newton, they held the higher place. But classics at Oxford included Ancient Philosophy and Ancient History with a certain amount of modern illustration, Aristotle being supplemented by Butler's Analogy and sermons. It was no illiberal training; it not only exercised industry and called forth intellectual effort but excited an interest in the great questions of humanity. To the phrase 'literae humaniores', indeed, it corresponded very well. Our study of Aristotle was intercourse with a grand intelligence, though we lacked the lights which evolution has now thrown on the subject.

The Classical class list of Oxford has certainly given to England a long train of statesmen and leaders of opinion, among the leaders of opinion being Cardinal Newman. Even the financial system of England has been largely the work of Oxford first class men in Classics and they have supplied a large quota of those permanent undersecretaries of Government Departments who have the ordinary administration of the Country in their hands. Lord John Russell, as a scion of an enlightened Whig House, instead of being sent to one of the old Universities was sent to Edinburgh, but I have heard that after long experience he expressed his preference for Oxford and Cambridge as schools for public men.

The fatal defects of the system were first that it excluded, and almost condemned to ignorance and idleness, all whose aptitude was not for the humanities but for the positive sciences; and secondly that it failed with all but the elite. Those who did not read for Honours, the pass men as they were called at Oxford, the poll men as they were called at Cambridge, got nothing but a miserable smattering of Greek and Latin which could not possibly have had any value either by way of knowledge or by way of training and which they lost as soon as their backs were turned on the University. The time of many, perhaps of most of them, was worse than wasted since they contracted not only habits of idleness and expenditure, but distaste for reading. Even of the classmen not many if I may judge from what I saw among my own acquaintance kept up their Classics. Canning did; Lord Grenville did; the Marquis of Wellesley did and after his famous pro-consulate and his long public life wrote his beautiful Latin lines on a weeping willow. Pitt used classical quotations; whether he kept up his classics does not otherwise appear. Sir George Cornwall Lewis kept up not only his classics but his classical erudition and continued his researches when he had become Chancellor of the Exchequer. Mr. Gladstone has done the same. Lord Sherbrooke, better known as Robert Lowe, seemed as a poll-