

of the Colonies has sprung the idea that it is possible the federation of the whole Empire might be the ultimate outcome. That view has been discussed in the *Review*, in the press of Canada and of the United Kingdom, and it has been present to the mind of Canadians for some time. Well, I do not say that the federation of the Empire is impracticable by any means, but I think I may say with safety, looking from the standpoint of a Canadian, that I do not think we have reached the point at which we should press, as a Colony, for immediate federation. Some steps may have been taken already toward that end. It may come about in the process of time, but one cannot anticipate the evolution of great political questions; and, in the meantime, I think there are matters, minor matters, lying more closely at hand which require attention as well as this larger scheme of the federation of the Empire. If that scheme were to be seriously considered, however, I think we might pass over in readiness the geographical difficulties. With our rapid systems of transport all such difficulties would be overcome. Still, I do not see what we have to gain by such a federation, particularly so far as the administration of our own affairs are concerned. The Magna Charta of Colonial Government was set forth clearly by Lord Durham in his report in 1839, and that was that if the Colonies were to remain in affiliation with the Empire, and be successfully governed at all, the principle of self-government had to be conceded almost in its integrity. If we are to have federation of the Empire I do not see how it can be brought about without the sacrifice of some of the elements or principles or privileges of self-government which we now possess, and for the Colonies to do this, unless it would be for the larger and more comprehensive interests of the Empire, would be a view which would not be very pleasantly entertained. I do say, however, that a scheme of federation which might lead to the merging of some of the interests and privileges of the Colonies in the larger Government of the Empire might not be undesirable or unsatisfactory, but at the present time we have not reached that stage in the discussion of this question which would enable us to express any definite opinion upon it. We are satisfied in Canada with the Government of the Empire from Westminster; we are satisfied with the manner in which our Colonial affairs have been administered, particularly for the last thirty odd years; we are satisfied with the representatives of the Crown who have