

and affection. To none of her Majesty's subjects was the recent shadow of war more ominous than to Canada, yet there was no hesitation on her part, and unanimous voice was made in the common cause with the United Kingdom. The speakers of the Dominion Parliament struck the right note when they spoke of "our Empire." "Could an expression of loyalty from all the colonies," he asked, "pass without serious effort on the part of both the colonial and imperial statesmen to transform these high sentiments into practical results?"

Mr. Chamberlain's concluding remarks on an Imperial Zollverein are of profoundest significance:

"To organize an empire—one may almost say to create an empire—greater and more potent for peace and the civilization of the world than any that history has ever known—that is a dream, if you like, but a dream of which no man need be ashamed. We appreciate and we cordially respond to the notes, the stirring notes, of loyalty and affection that have been evoked from our colonies when the great Mother Country has appeared to be in danger. We look forward with hope and with confidence to the development of those countries which are populated by our children and by our kinsmen, but those sentiments alone will never make an empire unless they are confirmed by bonds of material interest, and we can only found Imperial unity upon a common weal. And so, if you will permit me, I will conclude in the words of a Canadian poet, who, addressing the statesmen of the Dominion, said:

"Unite the Empire—make it stand compact,

Shoulder to shoulder let its members feel
The touch of British brotherhood; and act
As one great nation—strong and true as steel."

This great idea of Imperial federation and preferential trade is being discussed by the Boards of Trade throughout the Empire. The third congress of the Chambers of Commerce, to be held in London, in June, will develop, we venture to think, not only ties of kinship and blood, but of commercial relationship of the British Colonial and Imperial possessions through the world.

A BOND OF PEACE.

The great meeting in Queen's Hall, London, in favour of international arbitration, brought out a very distinguished consensus of opinion in favour of the

peaceful settlement of all international controversies. Since the Geneva arbitration of the Alabama disputes, more than fifty arbitrations have taken place, with the best results for the peace of the nations—more in the last twenty years than the previous five hundred years. "Napoleon," says Hall Caine, "called war an organized barbarism. The worst things said of war had been said by soldiers. The pretty things were said by poets, who did not take part in it. No doubt universal arbitration—if it ever came, and might it come soon!—must come by the voice of the people. There was a deep call in a man's heart to the soil that gave him birth; but there was a deeper call—the call of blood; every Englishman heard it from America, and every American from England. War between England and America was not patriotism, but murder."

The sentiment of the meeting was crystallized into the following resolution: "That this meeting hails with satisfaction the prospect of the establishment of an Anglo-American organization for the promotion of all that makes for the friendly union of the two nations in the common cause of civilization, peace and progress, and requests the committee which has summoned this meeting to reconstitute itself on a broad, national basis, with a view to future co-operation with any similar body which may emanate from the forthcoming national conference at Washington."

"OOM PAUL."

The character-sketch in the *March Review of Reviews* is that of Paul Kruger. Though Mr. Stead's purpose is to make the most of his character-studies, yet "Oom Paul" is no more lovely in his life than in his person. He has been a man of war from his youth, and has more than once been addicted to just such fibbustering as he complains of in Dr. Jameson. His so-called Republic is one of the most tyrannous oligarchies which ever existed in the world. No country can long endure the government of nine-tenths by one-tenth of its population. It is like basing a pyramid on its apex, and it cannot long stand.

The Boers are good fighters and sharpshooters, as well they might be, for many of them have practised on the Kafirs and Zulus from their boyhood. Kruger is an ignorant, illiterate man who has read few books and eschews newspapers. But he is endowed with a stock of strong horse-sense.