

IMPERIAL FEDERATION.

Two years ago, it was my privilege to be asked by the Literary and Historical Society of this City to read a paper on Imperial Federation. For my lecture this evening, I have endeavored to revise what I then prepared, expunging much that had only reference to the formation of the League, referring at greater length to the advances that have been made in its practical progress, and endeavoring to combat the arguments which have been advanced against its probable future success.

Perhaps the most frequently used argument against its promoters, and one that they have had to concede as being apparently fair, has been the one charging them with not being able to formulate any definite scheme, and that even after several years of existence, the League is still without any clear programme for its future attainment.

Strictly speaking, however, this is not so. The League has two or three definite and distinct aims—one was clearly defined by the commercial representatives of this country, when they passed during their 8th session, held in Ottawa, in January, 1878, the following resolution :

“That it is desirable to communicate with the Associated Chambers of Commerce in England with the view of obtaining their assistance in organizing a confederation of representatives from the Boards of Trade of the Dependencies of Great-Britain, to meet in London once a year