

ONE might have expected from the flourish of trumpets which preceded the opening of the Imperial Conference, now being held in London, that a good deal of jingo oratory would have followed, with plentiful reference to the 'Dominions on which the sun never sets,' 'the shipping that whitens (rather blackens now-a-days) every sea,' &c., &c. On the contrary we find the tone of the opening speeches—which are generally the loudest—to be very moderate, even vague and uncertain. No man has dared to advocate Imperial Federation in its broad sense. Lord Salisbury even declares a customs and military union to be impossible, and without that what is left of Imperial Federation? The utmost that seems to be considered as attainable is a union for mutual defence, and, possibly, a sharing by the colonies of the expense requisite to support the naval strength of the Empire. But what is this more than any of the ordinary alliances for mutual defence formed between the European nations, which last just so long as the mutual benefit continues.

Undoubtedly Imperial Federation as a scheme has numerous attractions for many persons of the widest sympathies and patriotic sentiments, and yet we cannot but think that the scheme is one which can never be carried into effect until its provisions shall no longer be necessary. In fact it implies that throughout the scattered fragments of the Empire there shall be such a wide sympathy between the peoples, and such an intense patriotism, in the old exclusive sense, that selfish and natural interests shall be subordinated to these sentiments. But long before these scattered peoples, who know little or nothing of each other, could be brought to such a condition—and unless the majority were of one mind the Federation would not stand the first strain put upon it—they would undoubtedly recognize that they were pursuing a very

unreasonable and arbitrary course—that their Federation was an extremely artificial one, sanctioned neither by commercial, political, social, nor intellectual interests. Why, for instance, should Canada link her political and commercial interests—to say nothing of the others—with the dwellers in Australia, the tribes of India, and the mixed races of South Africa, while she cuts off, by joining such a Federation, her natural relationship with a kindred people in the neighboring Republic?

One of the most rational proposals we have noticed, as affording a definite object for the united wisdom of such a conference, is to the effect that a general Bureau of Trade be established, having as its object the mutual provision of information as to the commercial requirements of the various portions of the Empire, that manufacturers, providers of raw materials, and wholesale merchants may be the better able to make known their wants to each other, that there may be less friction in the mechanism of trade and a more perfect understanding of the directions in which trade may be expanded. Much has been said about the military union of the Empire leading to the preservation of the world's peace. We greatly doubt it. Great military federations too often lead to great wars. But there can be no doubt that a more perfect commercial union of the countries of the world would soon bring wars to an end by making them extremely unpopular because destructive of each country's prosperity. By narrow self-interest alone is war provoked, by a widened enlightened self-interest alone can it be prevented.

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Although Greek is not hereafter to be a required study at Harvard, the Greek department there is to be strengthened by the creation of a new professorship. Professor Agassiz, Curator of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, has received the honorary degree of doctor in science from Cambridge University, England.