

to have come. The unification of Italy and Germany, and the conservation of the American Union, are illustrations of this tendency. The unifying of the British Empire would give it its grandest exemplification. The relations of the colonies to Great Britain, however unwilling we may be to recognize the fact, may require readjustment in order to harmonize the antagonistic interests which exist. The numerous and noble progeny that Britain, the great mother of nations, has nourished and brought up, should begin to bear their part in the maintenance of national defence and the support of the national dignity. The cost of the West Indian and Pacific squadrons and of the numerous British garrisons that belt the globe, should not be borne disproportionately by the over-taxed peasants of Dorset and Devon, of Tipperary and Inverness. The wealthy colonies of Canada and Australia, New Zealand and Ceylon, and their fair and flourishing sisters around the world, should contribute equitably to the maintenance of that protection which they enjoy no less than those who live beneath the guns of Chatham and Plymouth. The dignity of the Empire demands its integrity; and Britain would as haughtily resent the attempt to wrest from her her smallest dependency, a Heligoland or St. Helena, as she would an invasion of Kent or Middlesex.

But if we are to take part in the national actions of Great Britain we should also share her councils. If we are to be taxed we should also be represented. Already our interests have suffered on account of our lack of influence on Imperial state-craft. If a Canadian had sat on the Government benches in St. Stephen's palace, would our Fisheries have been bartered away as they were? or our land invaded and our young men slain by a foreign foe, without the exaction of any compensation? Would not questions of international copyright, of duties, revenue, and

even of foreign treaties, and of peace or war, which might gravely affect our interests, be more easily and equitably adjusted than at present?

There are doubtless grave problems of state-craft to be solved before all the alien interests of so many diverse peoples can be harmonized; but the grandeur of the object is an inspiration to the effort, and the difficulty of the task but enhances the glory of its achievement. Indeed, so feasible does the scheme appear, that we are informed that Mr. Disraeli, at the late Mansion House banquet advocated the consolidation of the colonies with the mother country, and said, were this carried out, they would prove a source of increased strength to the Empire. Never was there nobler field for statesmanship, nor sublimer reward for the man who, not by "blood and iron," but by peaceful diplomacy, shall weld into indissoluble national unity all the British colonies throughout the world. There have been several amateur contributions to the discussion of this problem, one of the very best of which that we have seen is that of Mr. Jehu Mathews, of this city. It is summarized by himself as follows, in the last number of the *Canadian Monthly*:

"1. That a Federal Legislature, consisting of two chambers, should be formed, the Lower House to consist of representatives returned on one uniform system by the British Islands and the colonies; and that provision should be made for colonial representation in the Upper House also.

"2. That the colonies—meaning thereby British America, the West Indies, South Africa, and Australasia—should be left in possession of the systems of local self-government at present enjoyed by them, and that means be taken to secure the same privilege to the British Islands.

"3. That the revenue required to meet the expenditure of the Federal Government should be raised on a uniform rate of taxation, though not necessarily on a uniform system, all over the Federation, and that the inhabitants of it should be equally liable to military and naval service.

"4. That the Federal Legislature should succeed to all the prerogatives now enjoyed by the Imperial Parliament, excepting those only granted to the body or bodies appointed to legislate for the local government of the British Islands, and should also enjoy the right of taxation all over the Federation."