

Executive in its struggle with Irish rebellion, to aggravate the complications in Egypt and, latterly, to bring about a miscarriage of the perilous negotiations with Russia. If he has not himself conspired, he—a British nobleman always prating about his honour—has allowed others to conspire for him with the declared enemies of the realm. His end is gained in the only way possible; for it was obvious that his minority could be converted into a majority only by a coalition with the Parnellites or with the discontented Radicals. But no sooner is he confronted by the consequence of his own machinations than his resolution fails him, and he wants Mr. Gladstone to resume the Government; as though Mr. Gladstone or any other high-spirited statesman would hold office by his sufferance. It is not improbable that he would have declined the adventure altogether if he had not been thrust on it by Lord Randolph Churchill, in whom he will soon find the avenger of the Gladstone administration. At the moment when he received the Queen's summons, it must have been borne in upon his soul that Tory Democracy, with which he has been dallying, would be rather an alarming game for a marquis. He was described by Beaconsfield as "a master of flouts, gibes and jeers." In this line he has hardly a rival, and there are few more telling speakers so long as he is the assailant. Here his statesmanship begins and ends. The prevarications, not to say falsehoods, of which he was guilty in the affair of the Schouvaloff agreement, and again in that of Tunis, are proofs not only of a hollowness in the direction of sterling integrity beneath all his lofty professions, but of want of presence of mind and sense, for the first of them, at all events, was perfectly gratuitous. He might just as well have admitted that he had an informal understanding with Count Schouvaloff for the purpose of averting a great disagreement and a war. That the Marquis of Salisbury is a man of essentially infirm character as well as of unstatesmanlike mind, that he has been truly designated as a reed painted to look like iron, is the conviction of some who know him well, and who have no objection to a reasonable and patriotic Conservatism. If he gets a majority at the next election and continues in power, it will be seen whether this opinion is well founded. Before the election he can do nothing but adopt the foreign policy he has been denouncing. This he will do. He will apologize to Russia and accept her terms; and, in spite of all his bluster and that of his partisans, he will evacuate the Soudan.

IMPERIAL FEDERATION.

I was among those asked to take part in the formation of a Canadian branch of the Imperial Federation League of London, England. I was somewhat taken aback by the invitation, as it was a question upon which no definite opinions had been formed either by myself or by those with whom I am surrounded. Indeed it has been and still is in the clouds, and has so far neither enlisted the sympathies nor even engaged the attention of any considerable number of the Canadian people.

Replying off-hand to the invitation, I expressed my appreciation of the compliment which had been paid me in asking me to confer with a number of distinguished men on such a grave question, but avowed that I was not ready for a definite solution of the problem of the future of this great country. If I was able to attend, I would be very glad to talk over the future of the Dominion, and listen to any plans which might be presented. I was told in reply by the secretary of the Committee that this was satisfactory.

Having some public business at Ottawa, it happened that the time for the meeting of the proposed Convention at Montreal exactly corresponded with the date of my departure from Ottawa for Halifax, and, of course, I could not think of missing the opportunity of attending such a gathering. I am not one of those who regard the question of the future with indifference. The people of Canada are too little concerned in regard to these vast problems which sooner or later, and perhaps sooner than most expect, will come up for solution. I believe firmly it is the duty of intelligent men to look these matters fairly in the face now. The existing relations between Canada and the Empire cannot always continue. Colonists we cannot always be. This is the axiom with which we may start. If not colonists—what are we to be? What is our political future? These are profound questions which cannot be burked, and will not be much longer postponed. He is not a wise man who will meet them or dismiss them with a sneer.

Animated, then, with only one thought—a profound interest in hearing the subject intelligently and impartially discussed, I took my seat in the Ladies' Ordinary at the Windsor Hotel, Montreal, on the 9th day of May last, at three o'clock in the afternoon. Soon after the proceedings commenced. In a very few minutes, I discovered beyond all question that I was in a gathering of men who had settled the whole question completely and irrevocably; who had made up their minds definitely that our true and only

destiny was Imperial Federation in the abstract, whatever that may mean. This was equivalent to ruling me out of the Convention. A feeling of profound lonesomeness came over me, for I realized that I was surrounded by a body of gentlemen completely devoted to British interests, and bound up in the idea of closer political relations with the British Islands. My mind had not reached this stage, and therefore I was alone—left out in the cold, a doubting Thomas in the midst of an enthusiastic band of loyalists. I had been set down to move one of the resolutions of the Provisional Committee, and did not like to disturb the harmony of the proceedings by declining, but in doing so I made bold to say that I did not consider myself committed to any definite scheme, but I was ready to accept at any time whatever future promised the greatest advantage to this country. Even these few moderate remarks met with a cold reception. They fell like a wet blanket upon the Convention, and I saw I was ruled out.

I mention these personal details, because I wish to be free to deal with this question on its merits freely and without restraint. As my name has appeared in print as one of those in attendance, and in several journals as a mover of one of the resolutions, it seems to be necessary for me to explain frankly and fully my whole connection with the business. I was appointed one of the Executive Committee of the League, but from the moment I made my few remarks, I was no longer recognized in any way with the movement, and with a due sense of the responsibility of the step, I hereby in the most solemn manner read myself out of all connection with the League and relieve all parties whomsoever from all further obligation to consult me or notify me to attend meetings.

Having thus put myself right in the matter, I desire to make some observations on the general subject of the future of this great Dominion. I am profoundly impressed with the idea that matters are going to develop faster than most of our public men are aware. The regnant idea now in this country is to sneer at any change whatsoever. Nearly every newspaper in Canada has either passed over in silence or treated with ridicule the recent Imperial Federation Convention. Probably if another Convention should meet at the same place to consider the propriety of linking our political destinies with the United States it would receive about equal treatment from the average newspaper writer. These people, and they reflect the general sentiment, seem to have the idea that things will go on forever in their present shape, that Canada will everlastingly be a colony of Great Britain, and consequently that there is nothing worth thinking about in connection with the future of this country. Depend upon it, this is a grave fallacy. Canada may continue to be a colony for ten, twenty, thirty, perhaps forty years, but certainly not longer. The probabilities are that the problem will be settled at a much earlier date. The Imperial Federation movement of Great Britain is an index of the growth of thought on this question in the British Isles. It means, as plainly as anything can mean, that British statesmen have come to recognize the fact that colonies assuming national proportions must either become part and parcel of the Empire, under a new, closer, and more dignified relationship, or else become separate from the Empire. The crucial resolutions of the first important meeting of the League asserted in distinct terms that Federation was absolutely essential to the integrity of the Empire. These words were, at the suggestion of Sir Charles Tupper, struck out. This was a very delicate method of insinuating the devotion of the colonies to the Empire; but it would have been more accurate to have kept them in. It may not be absolutely true of this present moment, but it must represent the inevitable course of the future. It is merely uttering a truism to affirm that forty years from to-day Canada must be either an integral part of the Empire, or no part of it.

If this idea is thoroughly absorbed by every enlightened Canadian, it banishes indifference and brings every man to consider thoughtfully, seriously and patriotically the all-important question: What is to be the political destiny of Canada? What is to be the solution of the British Colonial problem? These great questions are ripening every day and may lead to revolution. Let them not be ignored or postponed. They are fit to be meditated upon and manfully discussed by the public men of Canada to day.

How far Imperial Federation is adapted to the interests and necessities of the Canadian people, I should like to have the privilege of discussing in another article.

J. W. LONGLEY.

THERE are sixteen species of trees in America whose perfectly dry wood will sink in water. The heaviest of these is the black ironwood (*confalialia ferica*) of Southern Florida, which is more than thirty per cent. heavier than water. Of the others the best known are the lignum vitæ (*gualacum sanctum*), and mangrove (*rhizophora mangle*). Another is a small oak (*quercus grisea*) found in the mountains of Texas, Southern New Mexico and Arizona, and westward to the Colorado desert, at an elevation of 5,000 to 10,000 feet.