

the placing of the relations between the parent state and its great dependency on a basis which will strengthen the empire and at the same time give Canada even a higher position in the councils of the imperial state.

The federation of the empire in the full sense of the term may be considered by some practical politicians as a mere political phantasm, never likely to come out in a tangible form from the clouds where it was long concealed; and yet who

asia and South Africa discussed with Canadian representatives questions affecting the empire at large, not a word was said on the subject of Imperial Federation. Imperial defence was not even considered; but, despite this studied neglect of a scheme which, more than once, had been eloquently urged by several representatives—especially by Mr. Foster, then Finance Minister of Canada—it is probable that this convention would never have met were it not for the efforts of enthu-



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—From Alexander's "*L'Acadie*."

can doubt that out of the grand conception, which first originated in the brain of Franklin and Otis, statesmen may yet evolve some scheme that will render the empire secure from the dangers which arise from continual isolation, and from the growth of peculiar and distinct interests, that naturally result from the geographical situation of communities so widely separated from each other throughout the world?

At the Ottawa Conference of 1894, when delegates from Austral-

siatic supporters of the movement for some years back to create a deeper interest in colonial affairs and Imperial connection. At the Conference commercial questions absorbed the attention of the delegates, and perhaps some historical students may recall the fact that considerations of trade and finance led to the famous convention that created "a more perfect union" in 1787 for the American States previously bound together by a loose confederation.

Some strong reasons may be