

ever accomplished, I may remark that in most cases where kindred tribes have formed themselves into a nation, the idea of mutual protection for military defence has been the prevailing motive. It may be assumed, and in fact it is already beginning to be realised, that the great colonies if they are to remain united to us will be able and willing to contribute in varying proportions towards the expenses of a system of common defence, naval and military. In this event, the contributing sections of the Empire must necessarily have some voice in the expenditure of the funds so contributed. They will have to send representatives to some central consultative body, whatever it may be called. Such a body might contain within itself the germ of the future representative assembly, the truly Imperial Parliament. To this assembly may be relegated such functions for the good of all sections of the Empire as the separate sections may from time to time deem it advisable to entrust to it without in any way interfering with the individual self-government of the various colonies and of the mother country itself.

Should not the achievements and opinions of such a man as the statesman who has departed from us incite us to eschew in regard to the politics of the Empire the 'craven fear of being great?' If it may not be given to us to realise that grand idea, the confederation of *all* the nations which have sprung from the race nurtured in these isles, should we not at least use all our energies to promote the union and political consolidation of that Greater Britain which still owns one flag and acknowledges one sovereign? So that, closely joined together for the purposes of mutual defence, and connected to our mutual advantage by all the ties of growing commercial intercourse, we may be so strong in our unity that none would venture to attack us, so peaceful in our aspirations that we should neither attempt nor desire to be aggressive towards other nations.

S. B. BOULTON.

POSTSCRIPT.

Since the foregoing article has been in type some weighty words have been uttered by Lord Salisbury in reply to the deputation from the Imperial Federation League which waited upon him at the Foreign Office on the 17th of June. His Lordship's emphatic declaration that the subject was 'of profound importance,' involving 'neither more nor less than the future of the British Empire,' and his indication that the time was come for some definite scheme of Federation to be formulated, furnish evidence that the question is approaching the range of practical politics. His definition of the two bases upon which a confederation should be established—the Zollverein and the Kriegsverein—is clear and precise, and whilst the Zollverein would be of incalculable benefit to the Empire, the Kriegsverein appears to be absolutely essential to the maintenance of its integrity.—S. B. B.