

do as she does. But at the same time she confesses that they are old enough to know their own minds, and "what is more she can't prevent them from having opinions of their own, and acting on them." They in Canada, in Australia, and in the Cape stretch hands to the old mother and cry: "Treat us as your children, and give our goods some advantage in your market, and we will fight for you." As yet England turns a deaf ear to this cry. Perhaps some day she may find that she must purchase her distant children's active support at a higher price than that she would be obliged to pay now. A higher price? How is that possible? Ask the Free Traders, with Mr. Gladstone until lately at their head as Prime Minister, and now their retired but still consulted oracle. Foreign countries, says the oracle, would at once retaliate against England were she to place any duty on their goods heavier than that placed on England's own children. The bulk of England's trade, he continues, comes from abroad. Therefore, we must run no risk of offending the foreigner. To such fears it is useless to point out that the foreigner, like the Englishman, thinks only of what is best for himself. His duties are as high and only as high as he thinks it will be profitable to himself to have them.

The only way to raise such all-round selfishness into a sense of the necessity of union is to show that persistence in extreme dogma must bring isolation in times of danger as well as in times of peace. This will gradually be brought to the front, in all probability, by united pressure on the part of some of the children of the mother of nations, who, like the old lady in the nursery tale, has so many children she don't know what to do, and as she can't "whip them all soundly and send them to bed," she will probably have to put up with some of their ideas and "behave accordingly." This is the chief meaning of this first Imperial Parliament, or Council of Ministers, held where the Algonquin and Iroquois used to fish beside the spray shot forth by the falls of the "Chaudière." There is not much chance that the modern fishermen there assembled will hook fish too large for them to handle. The good sense which has made these young nations so successful will be answered by the moderation always inherent in the statesmen "at home," however far they may see fit to drive dogma to "please the gallery" for a time, for the "gallery" is the source from which the young nations have come, and are even now being daily reinforced in numbers, and the crowd in that gallery can understand