

probability of anything like an Anglo-American alliance! He has no faith in anything but "blood and iron." But even German unity rests on something deeper than blood and iron.

Let us understand then that New Zealand, though declining to form part of the new "Commonwealth of Australia," the constitution of which is now being submitted to a popular vote, is and always will be an important factor in the life of Australasia and of the Empire. It intends to work out its own destiny as a self-governing community, with sympathetic regard for the big sister island, whose main interests are one with its own, but friendship with whom might be perilled, instead of fostered, by even a loose federal union. This decision seems to me a wise one. Australia has a good many difficulties to overcome before consummating its own unity, and New Zealand should not allow its distinctive life to be submerged in the conflicts of the vaster but more uninteresting mainland. It is great enough to hang by its own head. I know no section of our Colonial Empire, of equal extent, possessed of such great and varied possibilities. In this regard it may be considered as good as Britain itself. It is about the same size; its division into two islands by Cook's Straits gives it special maritime advantages; the climate is as good for breeding a healthy race, and even more equable and of greater range—due to 1,100 miles of length from south to north. It thus includes the temperatures of Italy, France, England and Scotland, and consequently an extraordinary variety of products.

Strange to say, these lovely islands went a-begging for a civilized owner till our own day. Tasman visited them in 1642, and in 1769 Captain Cook landed and left behind pigs, poultry, potatoes and cabbages, which

have thriven exceedingly, as everything introduced since, whether of the animal or vegetable kind, has thriven. But, though Captain Cook had strongly recommended them to the British Government as a home for Englishmen, not till 1840 was New Zealand created a colony. In that same year the South island was within an ace of being picked up by France. Captain Stanley, of H.M.S. Spitfire, brother of the great Dean of Westminster, had hoisted the Union Jack at Akaroa only three days before the arrival of a French expedition with a number of emigrants on board. The Frenchmen, seeing the flag, good-humoredly accepted the situation and sailed for New Caledonia. The North island soon leaped into importance, in consequence of wars with the natives, brought on by the selfishness of a land company to which the Colonial Office had given extensive powers; an unfortunate experience, repeated only the other day in Rhodesia, and with less excuse, as by this time it ought to be known that the objects of land or mining companies can hardly be other than selfish, and that the rights of the old lords of the soil will be treated with indifference or contempt by corporations whose one thought must be dividends.

The history of the colony is associated with the attractive personality of Sir George Grey, twice Governor, thereafter private citizen, superintendent of one of the nine provinces, member of the legislature, premier, and always public benefactor and a name to conjure by among the best men and women of New Zealand. Twice in its early history he found the Maoris at war with the settlers, inflicting defeats on them and on blue-jackets and regular soldiers, as well as on the loyal natives. He not only brought the wars to an end but conciliated the rebels, and so won