



"CEASE FIRE!"

A notable Cartoon which appeared in *Punch* to celebrate the end of the South African war.

confessed that we are no longer equal to a conflict with her [America], if cause of rupture should unhappily arise, our sun has set: we shall sink, as Holland has sunk, into a community of harmless traders, and leave to others the place which once we held, and have lost the energy to keep."

The great historian not content with merely theorizing about the Colonies paid a memorable visit to some of them fifteen years later and embodied the results of his observations in "Oceana." It is notable that although he returned from the antipodes by way of the United States he did not visit Canada, partly because he believed the problem of Empire here was so complicated by the neigh-

bourhood of the overshadowing Republic that it constituted a case by itself.

Thirty years ago his was a voice crying in the wilderness. What would he think were it given to him to return to earth for a few short hours or days in this year of grace. Indeed before his departure he had seen, so rapid had been the change of sentiment, the first Colonial Conference, that of 1887, held, but he did not live to see that Canada whose geographical position made her case special and less hopeful in his eyes, leading the Colonies in the agitation for closer connection of sentiment, if not of more material things, with the Motherland. "We laugh at sentiment," he says in the conclusion of *Oceana*, "but every generous relation between man and man, or between men and their country, is sentiment and nothing else." This is so obviously a fact that we can only

marvel at those who resolutely shut their eyes to it.

It may be asked what the various Colonial conferences have accomplished. It may be admitted in advance that the list would not be a long one, but the sentimental connection has been strengthened to that degree that has made Colonial participation in the South African war possible. Whatever view one may take of war, or of that war in particular, there can be but one opinion of the generous fire which prompted every Colony to range itself alongside the Motherland to help perform a task that was not without its difficulties and dangers.

The Colonial Conference of 1887 mainly discussed Imperial defence.