

INTRODUCTORY.

THE collection of these articles (some of which were unsigned) is due largely to their author's vanity, a vanity shared by not a few who have served, however humbly, in memorable campaigns. At the same time it is hoped that these reprints may feebly aid the efforts of more important writers and speakers who are striving for the same beneficent end, namely the strengthening and staying of our Britannic Empire, "the greatest secular agency for good now known to mankind"

There have lately been many hopeful symptoms that we are nearing the goal. One is the feeling of brotherhood for the starving Hindoos, shown all over the Empire, and nowhere more than in Canada. Another is the preferential treatment offered to the mother-country in the new Canadian tariff. Another was the unbroken and imposing front presented by all the nations owing allegiance to the Queen, when Britain seemed on the verge of wars arising from her championship of South American and South African colonies. In his speech at the Royal Colonial Institute's banquet on the 31st of last March, Mr. Chamberlain, the Colonial Secretary, declared :— "I believe in the practical possibility of the federation of the British race (*loud cheers*), but I know that it will come if it does come—not by pressure, not by anything in the way of dictation by this country, but it will come as the realization of a universal desire, as the expression of the dearest wish of our colonial fellow-subjects themselves." And what is still more significant, if not so seemingly important, the chief organ of the dominant party in Nova Scotia, the *Halifax Morning Chronicle*, which not long ago pooh-pooched imperial federation as a dream and a fad, observed editorially in its issue of April 5th, 1896 : "The whole trend of sentiment, conviction and events is in the direction of the unification of the empire, and the