

necessary tendency of prolonged imperial rule was, to provoke in both a bitter discontent that only the concession of the right of self-government could assuage or remove.

Perhaps the general scope of my book has now been sufficiently indicated, but it seems advisable to discuss a little further the question of Imperial Federation, since the consideration will give a more pointed significance to the deductions I wish to be derived from the chapter immediately ensuing.

An important requisite of the federal project must evidently be, that the country claiming to exercise the chief share of authority in the Federal Council should have given proofs of its capacity for conducting the administration of its own affairs on principles likely to be conducive to the best results, and that from the history of its more recent past it should be able to furnish a guarantee that the preponderating share of power to be confided to it will only be used to the advantage of the imperial domain. For this purpose it should be ready to show a record of a consistently beneficial course of internal legislation, not calling for the sudden substitution of political and social changes of extraordinary magnitude; and further, it ought, in order to support its claim to the federal leadership, to be able to give ample evidence of as great a willingness to reform glaring defects in its previous conduct of colonial administration as it has given of its desire to destroy what is rotten, unjust, and hopelessly corrupt in its own institutions. Can such assurance be furnished from the comparatively modern domestic legislation of Great Britain? Can it be assumed that the future course that might be pursued towards the Colonies by England, if to her was entrusted the managing directorship of the Federal Council, would differ in spirit from the course she has persistently adhered to in the past? The change would be unlikely, and in the nature of things next to impossible. If so—if the sole answer to these questions must be a decided negative, and such it cannot fail to be—then England's claim to the controlling headship of the Federal Council is indeed a poor one, and as in the view of the Federalists the superior authority of the mother-country in the Councils of the vast Union is the end-all and be-all of the