

CHAPTER VII.

CONCLUSIONS.

1894.

SHORTLY and clearly we have tried to write down for you the leading facts affecting the future destiny of our Empire. The love that one may have for a country, and all that is contained in that name, may and does lead men on to a course of action, but is not effective as a line of argument. This may be the key-note of a national anthem that gives life to the melody, but when we come down into the political arena we have to present facts to produce a lasting impression on the mind. Those facts we have stated. What is the conclusion you will come to? We have placed the date at the head of this chapter, partly for your sake, that if you have not yet made up your mind on the policy and the programme, such a state of mental wavering may come to an end with 1894; partly for our sake, because we expect fresh arguments, new facts, to come from time to time to add to the strength of the cause of Union, which may not have been thought of at the present date. The way seems opening up by the present contested legislation in the English House of Commons, which, instead of leading to disintegration, as many fear, may but be the storm under the dark cloud whose silver lining may light the path to the stronger position of British Union.

The prevalent feeling seems to be that when British Union is to become a reality, a consensus of Colonial opinion must be manifested at the same time on the same plan; but it is difficult to think of a reason that can be urged against the claim of the