

the British Empire which are now known as the Dominions. In the volume before us he brings the story up to date, describing the events of the last four years, which have been years of high importance in the development of self-government. Valuable as this part of the work is, however, the interest of most readers will be more particularly enlisted by the second part of Dr. Keith's work, to which he gives the title "Possibilities of Union." To the discussion of this absorbing topic the author brings very high qualifications. Many years spent in the Colonial Office and latterly in the Dominions Department, together with an intimate association with the work of the Imperial Conferences, have given him exceptional means of knowledge of the existing relations between the Home Government and the Dominions. But Dr. Keith has deserted the Colonial Office to become Regius Professor of Sanskrit in the University of Edinburgh. He writes, therefore, free from the restraint of official reticence. That he has enjoyed his liberty is very apparent. Perhaps he has sometimes let himself go rather further than good manners (to say nothing of discretion) permit. But the dispassionate reader will be able to give their proper weight to his criticisms without being provoked to anger by an occasional shrewishness of phrase.

Dr. Keith is not one of those persons who, having excogitated a scheme for federating the Empire, present it as the only solution of a very complicated problem. He has too much knowledge of his subject to be seduced by such easy methods of reconstruction. Federal government, more than any other, engenders friction. For the present "the efforts of statesmen must be bent on removing as far as is practicable all grounds of friction between the several parts of the Empire, and on promoting unity of sentiment and action upon common problems." With such ends in view, Dr. Keith is content to reduce still further the slight control which the Imperial Government exercises over the affairs of the Dominions. Thus he would, as is reasonable, concede to any Dominion which has not already got it full power to change its constitution without reference back to the Imperial Parliament. Governors, he thinks, should no longer retain any personal control in the sphere of executive government. They should act always on the advice of Ministers, as the Crown does in Great Britain, whether in regard to the dissolution of Parliament or the exercise of the prerogative of mercy, or in any other matter whatever. Again: while the supremacy of Imperial over Dominion legislation shall be retained, the power of the Imperial Government by means of reservation and disallowance to control Dominion legislation should be formally abandoned. On the other hand, in order to preserve the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council as a supreme court of final appeal for the Empire, it should be given a real Imperial character by providing for the effective and continuous representation of the Dominions amongst its members. Other recommendations