

## LECTURE No. 5.

Friday, March 9th, 1906.

### IMPERIAL FEDERATION.

General nature of the problem. The federal principle in political development. Its utility in the Nineteenth Century : United States ; Switzerland ; Canada ; Germany ; Australia. Peculiar advantages of federal union. The compromise between absorption and independence. Provincial autonomy and natural sovereignty. The federal principle and the British Empire. Plans suggested for imperial federation. Legislative federation in a joint parliament. Difficulties to be overcome. Distance from constituencies. Difficulty of applying the cabinet principle. Question of a "local parliament" for the United Kingdom. The plan of "Home Rule All Round." The case of India and the dependencies. Proposals for "executive federation." The Colonial Conferences. An Imperial Council. The place of the Crown in the Imperial System. Principle of growth *vs.* the Principle of Construction. Federative Forces. The commercial bonds of Empire; trade routes, cables and postal development. Organisation of an Intelligence Department. Opening of the imperial service to colonial subjects.