

view of the experience of Private Burgess, a reasonable delay would appear to be quite justifiable. Moreover, much trouble might be caused if the widows of officially killed soldiers were unwilling or unable to return the insurance money.

Canadians Abroad.

Col. G. T. Denison has been insisting in London that the colonies should have a voice in the settlement of the peace conditions in South Africa, and many seem to agree. The name of Lord Salisbury is respectfully submitted to the enthusiasts as that of a man fitted by position, character and experience, to speak for Canada on the momentous issue.—*Gazette*.

Many of the best friends of the Canadians now fighting for the freedom and supremacy of British subjects in South Africa will endorse the subtle reproof to which the Montreal "Gazette" has given expression as above. We venture to think that few indeed of those who volunteered for active service in the war with the Boers have the slightest wish to be known as "insisting" upon being heard when, the war being over, it becomes necessary to determine the fate of the conquered and the future of their country. The English poet, Pope, has said

"Those best can bear reproof who merit praise."

Therefore, we feel free to reprobate the growing disposition of some much too zealous friends of our own particular "absent-minded beggars" to claim for them uncommon valour and intrepidity, and to demand greater remuneration for their services to the Empire than the love and admiration of their countrymen, and the thanks and gratitude of their Queen. Nothing, we are confident, would be so repellent to our representatives in South Africa than to be regarded in the light of claimants for representation when negotiations for peace conditions are being conducted. Colonel Denison merits so much praise for his untiring efforts to promote the cause of Imperial Federation, that he cannot be hurt by the mild reproof conveyed in the intimation that there are Canadians who will be quite content to have Lord Salisbury speak for them on such a momentous question as the settlement of South African affairs.

A Confederated British Empire The unification of the British Empire is a practical possibility, and recent events have so strengthened the ties which bind us to the Mother Country as to make closer political union desirable. Citizenship in a confederated British Empire would indeed be something to be proud of. At the same time, we do not wish to see the realization of this oft-expressed desire made impossible by any hasty and ill-advised attempts to gain capital for the scheme out of the voluntary service rendered to the Queen by her colonial subjects in the present war. There are clever and thoughtful men still living who do not hesitate to question the wisdom of any material change in the present condition of things, and who would shrink from the suggestion that, just at this time, the colonies should talk, brag and boast about the services

of their sons and insist that these entitle them to a voice in the settlement of South African affairs. When it is evidently the universal desire of Canadians to enjoy equal rights and equal privileges in the management of the British possessions; it will find expression in different shape to that given it by Colonel Denison. But when Canadians make known their wish to be admitted to the council board, it must be in the full knowledge of the fact that we cannot expect representation without taxation. Those who are now publicly advocating the federation of the Empire, are not the pioneers of the scheme. So far back as 1866, the Hon. Joseph Howe proposed methods for representing the colonies in the imperial parliament, for raising and assessing the contributions of the provinces to the imperial service, and for affiliating the provincial militia with the regular army. Read in the light of recent events, the following utterance of this great Nova Scotian makes very interesting reading:—

"If there are any communities of British origin anywhere who desire to enjoy all the privileges and immunities of the Queen's subjects, without paying for and defending them, let us ascertain who and where they are—let us measure the proportions of political repudiation now, in a time of tranquility, when we have leisure to gauge the extent of the evil and to apply correctives, rather than wait till war finds us unprepared and leaning upon presumptions in which there is no reality."

The same question is discussed from another point of view by a later distinguished writer, Mr. F. Blake Crofton, who in a reference to the alleged proneness of Britain to compromise disputes with the United States, says:—

"The third danger is that the carping abuse of Britain by certain papers in the colonies, whenever she makes a compromise or fails to jump instantly at the throat of any foreign power in defense of any disputed colonial right, may at last provoke unpleasant reprisals. Suppose that some day, after an unusually shrill chorus of barks from a certain class of Canadian journals, some of the great British papers should retort in effect: 'Gentlemen, if you don't like the way we protect you, you are quite welcome to protect yourselves, or to get some other protector, if you can find one cheap enough to suit your ideas. But before you either criticize our military, naval, and diplomatic services, or prescribe how or when we are to employ them, would it not be more graceful and more manly to contribute something to their support? To use the forcible language of your Republican neighbours, perhaps, gentlemen, you will kindly 'Put up, or Shut up!'"

It is evidently the duty of those who govern us to move slowly in this important matter, and not to permit even so zealous a champion of Imperial federation as Colonel Denison to proclaim in London anything more than his personal opinion about the Canadian voice in the settlement of the peace conditions in South Africa. Our soldiers are not fighting for seats at the council board of the Empire, but only for Queen, Flag and Freedom.