

dry, of great tenacity. Half-a-dozen such filaments are gathered together and spun precisely as silk or wool is spun, only without the drafting arrangement, and at a speed in accordance with the twist required. In passing through the spinning frame it rapidly dries and becomes quite solid, and in the process of drying the remainder of the solvent is removed. The yarn on the spools is said to be practically indistinguishable from tram silk, except by microscopic or chemical examination. It is, however, in this condition, when perfectly dry, a highly inflammable substance, and it therefore requires to go through a third process—that of denitration—in which by a well-known treatment by ammonium sulphide the nitric acid is extracted, after which, when the yarn is again dried, it is practically non-inflammable. Chemically the yarn when denitrated approximates very closely to silk itself.

From the fibre produced in the manner described, yarn, furniture, fringes, and braids, brocaded silk handkerchiefs, pongees, gimps, and sewing silks, have already been made. The appearance of the materials is satisfactory, and the Lehner artificial silk process has apparently a great future before it. We say "apparently," because the material, though pleasing to the eye, has yet to stand the test of time. Will the attractive cloths exhibited of late at Manchester and Bradford wear well? Can they be stored for any length of time on the shelves of the wholesale or retail houses, and will they resist the injurious chemical forces and products of combustion which are likely to attack them in such establishments? Is the material fitted to bear the risks of distant transportation in bales or cases—the handling and pressure during the packing process, and the influences of climatic changes? Will the regularity of the fibres, in warp and weft, of which a number go to make up a strand of yarn, be preserved after wear or washing, and are the colors likely to be injured by any of the influences to which reference has been made? These are questions we would ask, but not for the purpose of soliciting an answer, because no answer can be given until experience has supplied the necessary information.

THE ANTIPODES.

The recent intercolonial conference at Ottawa has already had one good effect on the Canadian mind. It has stimulated enquiry as to the sort of people our cousins of the Australian, South African and other British colonies are, how they live, what their resources are, and what influence they will exert, in comparison with ourselves, on the future of the Empire. The trouble with Canada, as with the United States, is that the very solidarity of commercial interests, language, and social connections makes our minds too self-absorbed, we have become narrowed by our continental isolation, we are, in fact, too parochial. The Canadian travelling, say in London, picks up a morning paper and reads long despatches or letters from India, from Australia, from Egypt, from Turkey, from France,

Russia, Germany and Austria, and is surprised perhaps to find Canada only as one of these in dividing the attention of the world. He realizes this with a feeling of humility that, after all, his country is only a parish in the province of the world's news and the world's doings. Seated there he feels that he is in the heart of the world, and unconsciously his mind broadens to an interest in what is going on in India, Africa and Europe, and when he returns to Canada he begins to feel that the Canadian who is solely absorbed in his own doings and surroundings, and fails to appreciate what is going on in the great world outside of his own country, is becoming narrowed in mind and heart. This, perhaps, is largely the fault of the Canadian and American press, but the result, whether the fault of the people or press, is as we have stated. Now the colonial conference has taught us that we are simply one of a family of peoples growing up under one empire, and having common aims and ambitions, and each developing special resources and national characteristics that will make us a necessary counterpart in the great empire that seems destined, under Providence, to impose and proclaim the millennial peace upon the world. Of this great future compact the United States seems most naturally to form a member, though in what shape the union will be must be left to the wisdom of our descendants to determine.

Descending from generalities to facts, it is promising to note that already our newspapers, merchants and manufacturers are taking quite an interest in Australian affairs and are learning something thereby. Those, by the way, who wish to post themselves on the recent progress and the public movements in the colonies, will be both entertained and instructed by reading Sir Charles Dilke's "Problems of Greater Britain," published a year or two ago as a supplement to his earlier book, "Greater Britain." A very useful book also is one by G. R. Parkin, a Canadian, dealing with the British Empire generally. Our readers are aware that Australia has suffered very keenly during the past two years from a depression, the result largely of speculation and over-booming the country. But like ourselves, the country has great recuperative powers and the people do not sit down and cry over spilled milk. Speaking of Australasian trade prospects, the Melbourne *Draper and Warehouseman* states that the buoyancy which the people of those colonies are showing under the year's crisis is remarkable. Men who had lost one employment at once devoted their energies in other directions, and there was a general determination to make the best of the situation. The great difficulty is, of course, the persistent fall in prices of their produce; it is bad enough to be working off old obligations, but when this has to be done in the face of the steady fall in all they have to sell, it requires a stout heart to face the problem. Work and thrift are the orders of the day, and everyone is racking his brains to find means for increasing his production and lowering his expenditure. The severity of the fight is well shown by the fact that Australasia has, during five years, increased the quantity