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She has been ready to advise us, to lend us money, and in every way assist us, while we were growing, let us hope, in wisdom and stature to the full measure of sturdy manhood. When that measure has been reached, it will be as ignominious to remain dependent and accept support from the parent state, as it is on the part of a full grown man to look to his sire, not only for counsel, but for assistance.

A man is never too old to ask and take advice without derogation to his dignity, but he cannot accept alms without loss of self-esteem. He may enter a partnership penniless and yet contribute in energy and industry more in value than his partner's wealth. In some such partnerships the children of the great British family might be incorporated. Some such mutual compact for profit and protection, there may arise a statesman, endowed with the wisdom to frame, and the sagacity and tact to manage. As yet, however, and though every thoughtful Englishman at home and in the Colonies knows that to be the most momentous, if not the most urgent, question of the day, no feasible plan of Imperial Federation has been formulated. Meanwhile the inevitable moment for decision, arising out of some unforeseen complication, approaches.

In the case of the Colonies in the Southern Hemisphere, no outward pressure or internal convulsion threatens to create necessity for sudden decision and prompt action.