

across the trail of Australian unity; and only when Australian unity has been consummated will the noblest minds—the minds that in the long run determine the thinking and action of a great people—be in a position to invite themselves and others to a far higher point of view. In the same way, South Africa has also to accomplish its own unification. The problems there are altogether different from those in Australasia, but it would take too long to indicate even in a hurried way the relations of British, Boer, and Black; or of Colonial Imperialism and Afrikanerism. This alone is clear to me, that the South African Colonies, Republics, and Protectorates must accomplish their unification and obtain Home Rule along the lines that Canada and Australia have traced and are tracing out, as the preliminary step to their becoming a partner in Imperial Federation. India, again, is the greatest Crown dependency. Its position is unique, and cannot be discussed in a sentence. Enough for us that it will have to remain in substantially its present relations to the central power for a long time to come. It is, however, well to remember, for the sake of those writers who tell us that Imperial Federation means taxing us and taking away our sons to fight in Burmah and Afghanistan, that the possession of India has never imposed financial responsibility on the British people, in peace or war; that India pays for its own administration and for the conflicts necessary for its preservation; that it has warlike races that could supply millions of soldiers; and that its possession has brought nothing but benefit to the Mother Country, to itself, and to the world.

II.

“WHEN WILL THE QUESTION BECOME ONE OF PRACTICAL POLITICS?”

When Canada as a whole is ready for it and asks for the change in a constitutional way. We have never obtained an extension of our liberties from the Imperial Parliament until we asked for it. If a thing is worth getting, it is worth asking for. And it takes a long time before several millions of people are convinced that a proposed change is a reform, and that the reform is necessary to their well-being. There are always two or more sides to every question in a free country. Extreme men must be heard on every side; and at last the sober judgment and conscience of the