

their members to vote on questions merely affecting our local administration.

Beyond this remark I have nothing to say about the precise machinery of association. Doubtless the ruling principle and power of the realm will be in future, as now, the representation of the people; but I do not pretend to determine the precise form of this Imperial representation, nor do I think that any one can so foretell circumstances as to be able to determine it. I can only repeat my belief that it is one of those cases in which, when the time comes, it will be found that where there's a will there's a way.

Much, however, can be done to make that way easier. I am not now making a speech on present Colonial questions; but I may venture to allude very briefly to a few principles which I think ought to actuate our policy if we look forward to a permanent union.

We must continue by every means to strengthen the Colonies; therefore, we must try to give them the strength of union with one another wherever possible, as already in the Dominion, as we trust may soon be the case at the Cape, and as hereafter may be accomplished in Australia. We ought also to do our utmost to increase their moral strength by encouraging them in self-reliance, and in the fulfilment of all the duties of citizenship. Nor must we suppose that we can give this right to self-government by halves. We must allow them to manage, or even, in our opinion, to mismanage, their own affairs. But while fully admitting this right of self-government, I think we may in honest friendliness ask them to carefully consider any internal measure which might appear to be contrary to Imperial interests. For instance, the Canadian Parliament lately passed a Copyright Act. Our Parliament last session confirmed it, as was its duty. But it might perhaps have been well if the Dominion Government had been asked whether arrangements could not be made for an Imperial Copyright. Next, we must not sap the desire for union at home by asking the British taxpayer to pay for the Colonist