

old ones, but could scarcely expose them to new risk, *more particularly as the amount of local independence would be much greater in the British than in the American federation.*

6. The idea of having colonists sit in a chamber mainly composed of British Peers is denounced as the crowning absurdity of the scheme. It would be such if the want of historic ancestors rendered men incapable of making themselves respected, or of securing attention to their counsels. But as this is not the case, and as Englishmen of every rank are continually making their way into the House of Lords, and making themselves respected in it, I fail to see why colonists could not do the same, particularly when aided by the moral support of their countrymen, and the fact that their position would be in nearly all cases an acknowledgment of past services. For people who denounce the House of Lords as a caste to shrink from competing with its members on the wider field of free election is rather inconsistent.

7. We are informed by Mr. Norris that "the voice of Canada could not be any more powerful in a Federal Parliament than it is now" (p. 34). I confess that this style of argument tries my patience somewhat, inasmuch as it involves a mathematical absurdity. At present, when Imperial Ministers use Imperial prerogatives to our disadvantage, we have no means of checking them. Were Canada represented in the present Imperial Parliament according to her population, she would return about 80 members to it; and if according to her property about 22, as nearly as I can judge. Mr. Fuller says very truly: "Had Canada possessed representation in the Imperial Parliament she would never have tamely submitted to the lease of her fisheries" (p. 16). Can anybody suppose that the Ministry would have dared to adopt such a policy, had they known that its result would have been to throw into the ranks of the Opposition a number of votes counting 44 on a division? If "the whole is greater than a part," surely "something is greater than nothing." Even the smallest proportion of representation that could be granted to us would be as large as the balance which usually decides the fate of Ministries. To say that such a body would be powerless is simply to allege that representatives are unable to influence the action of Ministers.

But this is only one side of the subject. That there are serious difficulties to be overcome is loudly proclaimed; that the conquest of them would entail a rich reward seems to be totally forgotten. Did the reward consist only in the prevention of the evils consequent on disruption, we should be richly repaid. "It would, indeed," says Lord Russell, "be a spectacle for gods and men to weep at to see this brilliant Empire—the guiding star of freedom—broken up . . . while France, the United States, and Russia would be looking on, each and all willing to annex one or more of the fragments to the nearest portion of their own dominions." And, alas! too probable is it that these or other powers would succeed in such aggressions; for "these are not the days of small states;" and that the age of conquests is *not* past has been demonstrated pretty clearly by the events of the last twenty years. In the light of recent events it seems not improbable that the West Indies might witness scenes akin to those of the St. Domingo massacre; or that in South Africa the British, Dutch, German, and Nativerraces might become involved in strife. Canada and Australasia would be less exposed than the above countries to the danger of internal dissension; but even supposing them to escape it, they must, should they resolve to make any stand whatever against foreign aggression, maintain armaments which would act as a severe strain on their resources. The need of raising money for their maintenance, and the current of local feeling could scarcely fail to lead to the adoption of a protectionist policy, and a consequent war of tariffs; while their isolated position and diplomatic complications might even induce war in which men of the same race would imbrue their hands in each other's blood! On the other hand, let them unite their fortunes in one grand Federal league of British nations, and the smallest chance of even the least of these dangers vanishes in the might, glory, and unity, of the new Pan-Britannic Empire. Internal order and liberty are secured by the strength of the central authority, resting on institutions which have withstood the strain of centuries. External aggression is defied by the might of their united power, which, within a few years, would enable them to face the world in arms. And harmonious action is secured by their union on equal terms, and experi-