

The advantages of the past connection with Great Britain are obvious, those of the future will largely depend upon the action and policy of the Colonies themselves. No great end can be attained, no great advantages can be expected to accrue from a union which may be regarded with indifference, which may not be considered worthy of any sacrifice, however small, or which may be looked upon merely as a stepping-stone to future separation. If the benefits are to be obtained from the union under one flag of these great and growing communities which might be justly expected from their wealth, resources and progress, it must be by a policy of organization, of co-operation, and not of "drift" and indifference. Premising, therefore, that union is strength, that a combination of these countries for defence would be strong enough to enforce peace upon the world, and that their co-operation for commercial purposes would enable them to control its trade, we come to the question of whether the Mother Country would be willing to make some sacrifice of her insular dignity and her fiscal principles in order to obtain such a desirable consummation. If such questions had been asked fifteen years ago every thinking man knows what the answer would have been. Narrow-minded "doctrinaires," trading politicians, "peace at any price" statesmen, ignorant demagogues, would have replied with one voice, that they were unable to see any advantages even in holding the Empire together, and that the sooner the colonies left the union the better it would be for all concerned, or at any rate for the Mother Country.

But events have changed this trend of sentiment which at one time threatened to transform England into an isolated, weak and overcrowded Holland. The Imperial spirit has been awakened, and a wider patriotism has swept over the British nation which promises to prepare the way for that closer union of the different parts of the Empire which is now declared to be the great policy of the future.

The Manchester school of parish politicians died of inanition some years ago, and at the time of his decease John Bright was a solitary though noble monument of principles which the great mass of the people would no longer accept, and of which he was long the leading representative. The reaction has indeed been powerful and will be enduring. On all sides the advantages of Imperial unity are favourably discussed, and statesmen are