

adjoining Republic going into England or coming into Canada would certainly not be liked by the Americans, but as a keenly practical people they would recognize the fairness of these being imposed and maintained, so long as they persist in almost prohibitive duties against our Empire. Greater difficulties than all these, however, have been solved before, and will be solved again.

To sum up in a few words :

Canada stands firmly on the northern portion of the American Continent. She is thoroughly satisfied with her territory so far as it goes, though she ought to have had much more. She appreciates the ties that bind her to Great Britain. An immense majority of her people would strengthen them by every possible means. Canadians have a warm admiration for the great qualities of the American people, and desire to live on terms of friendly intercourse with them. But political union they conceive would be political death.

Complete independence is not practicable. It would be dangerous to try the experiment.

A complete Federation of the Empire, in the sense of having common customs duties, tariff, debt, revenue, and finance would also be impracticable. But a machinery may be devised by which the Colonies and the British Islands can be united for common defence, so that the strength of the whole may be rallied round any portion attacked ; all to contribute, rateably, to the expense, and a council for the discussion of Imperial questions to be formed, to which all matters relating to the rights or interests of any of the Colonies or of the Mother Country in her relation to them, may be referred.

In the discussion of these matters the inhabitants of the Colonies will require to be treated as citizens of the great British Empire, having an equal standing with citizens inhabiting any other part of it. If there is to be a common understanding amongst us, there must be no talk of putting pressure upon any of the Colonies with regard to tariffs or any other matter. One article contributed to the first number of the magazine devoted to Imperial Federation contains some hints of this kind. But such an idea will have to be abandoned. I know little of other colonies, but my impression is that they would not bear it. I am very sure, at any rate, that Canada would not.