

Mr. Fiske,¹ "the principle of federalism is just this: that the people of a state shall have full and entire control of their own domestic affairs, which directly concern them only, and which they will naturally manage with more intelligence and with more zeal than any distant governing body could possibly exercise; but that, as regards matters of common concern between a group of states, a decision shall in every case be reached not by brutal warfare or by weary diplomacy, but by the systematic legislation of a central government which represents both states and people, and whose decisions can always be enforced, if necessary, by the combined physical power of all the states." In fact, a central power must always be able to exercise its authority in great national crises with courage and determination. Local independence and national strength, must exist in a federation, but any unwarrantable assertions of sectional claims that may threaten the integrity of the federal state must be always promptly repressed.

I believe that the great governing principle of the world in the future is federation, by which all communities, whether of the same or different nationalities, can successfully unite on the basis of great common interests. The force of the idea has been acknowledged in modern history by Germany and Austria-Hungary, and has received its most powerful advocacy among the mountains of Switzerland. On the same principle the United States of America have built up one of the strongest and certainly the most prosperous nations in the world, and Canada has been able to unite diverse interests and nationalities so far with encouraging results. The colonies of Australia are awakening from the indifference and the jealousies which have heretofore prevented them from forming that complete union so necessary to the development of their common interests, and to the security of their island continent, and are at last moving to follow the example of their co-workers in America in the cause of civilization and good government.² No one can confidently assert, that, with the experience of the history of Europe and America before us, this powerful principle combining national strength and local independence may not be possible of expansion throughout the British empire, and that the beginning of a new century may not see all its component, and self-governing parts brought together into a union which shall satisfy the aspirations of every free community, give them an actual voice in imperial councils, and at the same time afford guarantees of the security and integrity of the whole, which do not seem possible under a system which is building up in every part of the world distinct and separate nationalities, ever increasing in population and vigour, and animated more and more by those national aspirations which are natural to every free people.

¹ "American Political Ideas," p. 133.

² Since the above was written, the several legislatures of Australia are moving practically in the matter, and will probably appoint delegates without delay to a national Australian convention to frame a federal constitution for the Australasian colonies. "These colonies," said the eminent premier of New South Wales, Sir Henry Parkes, in proposing a resolution to that effect, "in point of numbers, and advancement, are ripe for union, and the time is come when it can be successfully carried out, and these young communities may be said to be entering, as it were, into their full manhood. This country, so wondrously fair in its productive powers, so wondrously rich in the variety of its natural resources, so blessed in climate, so blessed by the race who have taken possession of it, has since been waiting for the divine touch to call it into national life." 'Sydney Herald,' May 8, 1890.