

common to the whole Empire, in such a way as not to interfere with the liberty of its parts." Turning to far-away Australia we find the Hon. Alfred Deakin, who lately resigned the Premiership of Victoria, describing it as "a co-operation of peoples in the common work before us, equal representation of self-governing communities meeting from time to time to consider the interests of the Empire and then to lay before the bodies they represent those proposals for acceptance or suggestion."

But definitions are not argument, and may be simply given as affording indications of the general lines upon which the policy must proceed. Mr. Deakin's proposition merely involves frequent Imperial Conferences and is eminently practicable as the success of the one held in 1887 fully proves.

Of course we are told that the difficulties are overwhelming, and that the movement in favor of closer union is making but little progress in England. The answer to the former is contained in the affirmative reply to the latter and in the idea enunciated by Sir Oliver (then Mr.) Mowat, at the great meeting held in 1884 for organizing an Imperial Federation League in London, England. "What are statesmen for, Imperial or Colonial? For the purpose of solving difficulties. It has been proved possible, both here and in the Colonies to solve difficulties that once seemed insolvable."

As to British opinion, the following resolutions will throw some light upon the question:

I.—NATIONAL UNION OF CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATIONS.

"That this conference, recognising the supreme importance of Imperial Federation, impresses upon Conservatives the desirability of its universal adoption as an article of Conservative policy."—*Bradford, Nov'r, 1886.*

II.—NATIONAL LIBERAL FEDERATION.

"That having regard to her responsibilities towards India and her colonies, and with a view to the exercise of a peace-

ful influence on European affairs, it is the true policy of Great Britain to avoid all entanglement in European quarrels."—*Leeds, Nov'r, 1886.*

Since then, also, the Associated Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom; many Chambers of Agriculture, and the National Union of Conservative Associations have declared in favor of closer trade relations. Lord Salisbury's frequent utterances regarding Imperial Unity, Lord Rosebery's active labors, the advocacy of such noted Liberals as Sir Lyon Playfair and Prof. Bryce, the formation of the United Empire Trade League, the declarations of South-African statesmen like Sir Gordon Sprigg, Hon. Cecil Rhodes and Hon. J. H. Hofmeyr, the utterances of Australians like Sir Henry Parkes, Hon. James Service, Hon. Duncan Gillies, Sir S. Griffith and many more, have all combined, together with constant review and newspaper articles throughout the Empire, to keep the question upon the path of steady progress. Last but not least might be mentioned a declaration of Mr. Gladstone's contained in a communication which I received from him some years ago, and which reads as follows:

SIR—The capacity of our legislative organ is limited. Its hands are very full. The physical strength of its members is overtaxed. In the perspective the first place is held by the great and urgent Irish question. Still more limited are the means, especially as to the future, possessed by a man on the margin of his 80th year. Under such circumstances promises should be avoided and deductions restrained. But having stated all this I can still assure you that I should view with the utmost satisfaction throughout the British empire that which in the case of Ireland it is my daily care and desire to obtain, a more thorough and substantial union of the different countries and peoples paying allegiance to Her Majesty.

Your most faithful servant,
Dec. 17, '88. W. E. GLADSTONE.

Thus no one party is more pledged to the policy than another, though in regard to the Commercial part of the