

sion, which have not been without their influence on Canadian journalism. It has also furnished a forum from which the best minds of Canada have, by means of contributed articles, delivered their views on the most important questions of the day to the people of the Dominion; views most necessary for the people of Canada to be in possession of, but views which would, in the majority of instances, have remained unexpressed in the absence of such a medium. That it may long successfully continue to exercise the important influence it is exerting upon the higher thought of the Dominion, everyone interested in Canada's intellectual development will ardently hope.—*Alberta Tribune.*

THE WEEK has entered on its thirteenth year, and gives ample proof of progress and success. Its position in Canadian journalism is unique—it is not a newspaper nor a magazine, yet partakes to some extent of the character of both. It addresses itself to the educated, thoughtful, intelligent and fair-minded portion of the community; its criticisms are fair and manly, its conclusions honest, and its opinions independent. While it continues to adhere to its present line of action, THE WEEK is sure of a wide constituency of readers and patrons.—*The Sarnia Canadian.*

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Christmas Greetings.

Peace and good will from God above,
And holy joy
And happiness and perfect love
Without alloy—
Be thine this blessed morn
On which the Prince of Peace was born.

May angel choruses announce
In joyful strain
God's loving gift, and then pronounce
In glad refrain,
The name of Christ, the King,
While all the courts of heaven ring.

And may their song find echo sweet
Within thy breast,
While His dear name thy lips repeat,
And if oppres't
By any foe within,
Rejoice! for He shall save from sin.

Montreal, Que.

"IVY GREEN."

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Imperial Unity.

NO one, whatever his present views of our future happen to be, can help feeling interest in, and admiration for the broad and lofty views so often, and on every available occasion, expressed by Principal Grant on the subject of our duty to the Empire. His recent articles on this subject in THE WEEK are exceedingly crisp and to the point—they are evidently the epitome of long and careful thinking on this great and far-reaching problem.

My only object in offering a word or two of comment is to point out to the distinguished Principal that in my judgment he is expending his missionary zeal in the wrong quarter. At the present moment it might not be a difficult task to convince the Canadian people that their position would be very much more honourable and manly if they were to assume a share of the burdens and achieve a share of the glories of Empire. I can conceive of nothing more anomalous, and scarcely anything more ignoble, than for five millions of such people as compose this great and growing Dominion, to occupy the position of Colonists, accepting defence from the Empire and contributing nothing toward it, responsible for the consequences of Britain's foreign policy, and yet unable to say a word or give a vote in the way of moulding it. While not, perhaps, able to decide finally and inexorably at this moment what we ought to do, I am prepared to concur in the general proposition that it is not heroic, or high-minded, or worthy of our achievements that we should remain dependents and dependents only.

But suppose Dr. Grant is able to convince the Canadian people of this fact—nay, suppose he has already convinced them, does he not realize that a greater difficulty confronts him in another place? Assume that Canada is ready to say

manfully, "We will be Colonists no longer, we will become an integral part of the Empire, and pay dollar for dollar with the people of the British Islands in maintaining the army and navy. And since the consequences of war fall upon us with the same force as upon Britain, we will send our representatives to the Councils of the nation and have our say in determining the foreign policy of the Empire." This I gather to be exactly what Dr. Grant thinks we ought to do. *But what say the British people to this proposition?* That is the crucial question, and it is to that quarter Dr. Grant and his coadjutors must submit their arguments and exert their missionary labours.

Looking at the problem superficially it struck me at first that the British people had more to gain by this Imperial Unity than the Colonies—more, at all events, than Canada. We have the alternative—it may not be a pleasant one to many, but it is still an alternative—of throwing in our lot with the English-speaking continent to which we belong. We have the further alternative of being able to stand alone after a few years and hew our way to a position of national greatness. But the power and prestige of the British Empire at this moment do not rest solely with the forty millions or less, who people the British Islands, the home of the race, and the holders of the national title deeds. It is because that in every continent and in every zone great English communities are growing up and assuming national proportions; strip these away and the Empire becomes of secondary importance, and shorn of most of its glory. To bring these great English-speaking communities together, and give all an equal voice in the Empire and make every one of them willing contributaries to its resources would strike an ordinary person as the greatest thing which the British people could do, a scheme so vast and magnificent in conception that all other state craft would seem paltry and common place beside it.

But, frankly, this is just what the people of the British Islands at this moment would not do. I spent nearly three months in England last summer with occasional visits to Scotland and Ireland. I met leading men in the political, literary, and social world; I exchanged ideas with colonial representatives in London, but I did not find a responsible man in England who would regard as practicable or possible a proposition that Canada and Australia should have representation according to numbers in the Imperial Parliament, and be allowed to have a share in the administration of national affairs. It is not too much to say that no people on the globe are more jealous of outside interference in their national affairs. Nor is it intended as a reproach when the declaration is made that the English, above all races, have the most absolute confidence in their ability to work out their own destiny unaided. Perhaps this very quality has been among the most potent causes of their wonderful success as a race and a nation.

I had the pleasure of addressing some large gatherings in both London and the country sections of England, and I always mentioned with enthusiasm the fact that if the Empire should be pressed by foreign nations for every man belonging to the British Islands who could be called to the defence, another equal to him in strength and courage would come from the great English Colonies the world over to shoulder a rifle and stand by his side. This statement was always warmly and politely applauded, but I knew perfectly well that not a man who heard me ever dreamed that such aid was necessary, or that Britain would not be able to take care of herself without any such assistance.

Quite frequently, while in London, I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. George N. Parkin, who has recently accepted a most important post in Canada. He devoted his entire energies for some years in stirring up interest in this great question in England and Scotland. He did a great deal of good for which Canadians should be duly appreciative; but I feel confident that, with exceptional opportunities of forming an intelligent judgment on the question, he will not controvert my opinion that the chief difficulty in the way of Imperial unity is to be found in England.

Let me not be misunderstood. The sentiment in favour of cultivating the colonies has enormously grown of late years. The "Little England" party is falling off, and the "Greater Britain" party is gaining ground. It is quite fashionable now in London to talk of Imperial unity in glowing and abstract terms. But it is the concrete and definite which kills. They would like to make the colonies friendly and