

plausible to account for the Queen's omission of the matter. The crusade against ritualism, and all the minor discords that this has brought in its wake, all tending to disestablishment, has brought the church management (not to mention the multifarious differences in doctrine and ceremonies) prominently before the public by every known channel, through the newspapers, on the lecture platform, by pamphlets, tracts, and even through the pulpits. This has placed the management in a very unenviable light. The bishops have apparently no power at all to control the clergy, and the clergy are not evincing the slightest disposition to be controlled. Everybody, from the highest archbishop down to the humblest curate, has his views on what ought to be abolished and what ought to remain and what ought to be introduced, and is in a big hurry to express them. If they happen to be novel, he is doubly in a hurry, and spreads them doubly as far as ordinary opinions. Then, the laymen are not less active. They are agitating the whole question, and particularly those phases of it which the clergymen leave untouched. Thus, the discord has become general, and nearly all of the adherents of the church have aligned themselves with one or other of the contending factions. Gradually, the matter is coming to that point when it must demand solution from Parliament. Perhaps the Queen does not wish to prevent this, but thinks that it would be more politic to let the matter work its way into Parliament by the logic of events, rather than by direct recommendation. However, it is surprising, in view of the fact that Parliament is the supreme authority, and the church is so sadly in need of some one asserting a controlling hand over it, that Her Majesty should see fit to ignore it. At any rate, the present state of affairs cannot continue much longer, for if it does, disestablishment and disorganization will certainly ensue.

Australian Federation. Concentration and consolidation is without doubt the order of the day with modern nations. We see everything tending to this. Colonies, wherever possible are being united under a single government, and remote possessions are being brought as near to the parent country as cable and telegraph and fast navies will permit. During the past month the Australian provinces completed their scheme of federation, which