

always arising in countries under representative governments. It cannot be said that the questions proposed for consideration do not demand the united action of the colonies and the metropolitan power. In one respect, the project is not unlike the renewal of a colonial experiment, which, unlike this, was made in a non-acceptable way, and of which the issue was the reverse of fortunate. On the present occasion, there seems to be reason for anticipating a better result.

In the opinion of some, the conference is intended to be a forerunner of Imperial Confederation, though the subject is to be tabooed thereat. The organization of the military and naval resources of the empire, they argue, leads directly up to political federation. Nevertheless the necessity for common defence is one thing, political confederation another, and the former does not by any law of necessity involve the latter. To get the two extremes of the colonial empire to take an interest in each other's defence will be much, and is perhaps all that it will be possible to accomplish. If Australasia were menaced by Russia or France, to what extent Canada would be moved to take a direct and active part in repelling the attack, it might be difficult to foretell. It may be taken for granted that a large number of volunteers could, in such a contingency, be got. But if France were the attacking party, the French of Quebec would be slow to range themselves, and might be expected to refuse to range themselves, against their ancient mother country. In saying this, we merely repeat what some of their own journals have uttered. Should Canada become a point of attack, Australasia would probably be disposed to come to her aid. But, in either case, the distance between Canada and Australasia would be too great to allow timely succor to go from one to the other. It is obvious therefore that the form of contribution to the defence of the empire which can always be in a position to be utilized, when and where wanted, must include a money grant. Contributions of men could take place only on extraordinary occasions, as during a long war, if with the present means of offence any war could possibly be long. No general idea of the defence of the empire has been grasped by its several parts; and if the conference should give general currency to such an idea, it will accomplish something that has hitherto scarcely been attempted.

WORSTED FABRICS.

Makers and designers of novelties are constantly on the lookout for something fresh to satisfy the capricious fancy of fashion. Sometimes it happens that the novelty is essentially different from what has been previously attempted; at other times it may be very similar to what preceded it, with different styles of finish, which, although not of much account by themselves, make a distinct style which may be brought to a decided improvement on the former.

One of the principal novelties in worsted fabrics, says *Les Tissus*, of Paris, will be in the shades, not only in the pure colors,

which are now so clear and fresh, but also in the mixtures, which term applies to mixtures in the carding as well as in the twisting. Some surprising results are expected, because the desired finish, instead of destroying, rather adds to the freshness of the tints. It is, therefore, easy to foresee some splendid effects. The principal point is carefully to choose the primitive tints destined to be united, for it is only by their prettiness and and richness that valuable results may be expected. Good taste is, of course, necessary in the choice of their shades, as without that ingredient the others are worthless.

These remarks apply equally well, in the opinion of the *Textile Record*, to both mixtures in the carding and in the twisting, and each will be in favor in different fabrics. When several shades are used proportionally in compounding a mixture in the fiber, great care and accurate weight must be used in reproducing that mixture. When the mixture is made from two threads of different shades, twisted together, the threads must be of a uniform thickness to take the twist evenly, and give an even, regular appearance to the finished fabric. Complete success can only be had by using choice materials, and great care during the manipulation of the wool and threads. No other process after the weaving can give this perfectly even effect, should there be any defect in the twisting of the one, or in the mixing of the other, and every such imperfection will plainly show in the finished fabric.

"With the mixtures and twists of which we have just spoken, will be made some stuffs to which silk will sometimes be added, either twisted with dark wool threads or in pure threads of one or several shades, which, when twisted, shows a variegated thread and striking dots when woven. The latest ideas on fabrics for trousering is in shading. Various shades toned down to a considerable extent, not in very large patterns, and crossed with chains of silk, small and neat, are what is called for by the present demand."

MODERN MACHINERY FOR TEXTILE MILLS.

The importance to manufacturers of a knowledge of new inventions and improved methods in weaving and finishing cannot be too strongly insisted upon. It is too much to expect a mill proprietor to buy every new machine that comes out. But he cannot afford to be in the dark as to what is going on around him if he wishes to keep pace with his neighbors in furnishing materials to suit the ever-changing phases of fashion. The manufacturer who thinks he is prudently economical in continuing to run old machinery, or by avoiding the introduction of improved appliances, is the victim of a delusion which will ruin him if he persist in following it. All other things being equal, the man with the newest machinery will certainly surpass his competitors.

"A mill equipped throughout, during the present year, with the very latest machines and general appliances," says the *Philadelphia Textiles*, "can make better stuff

and do it at less cost than a mill with a plant only eight or ten years old. The improvements in machines, and in all kinds of devices, large and small, for conducting processes of manufacture, are constant, and each year marks a large advance upon its predecessor. No man who wishes to succeed can carry very far his neglect of these movements. Of course a manufacturer cannot throw out his old machinery and put in new every ten years; but he can make gradual changes, introducing one improved device here and another there, so that he will keep reasonably well abreast of the progress of invention. More and more is it true that competition is compelling exactness and close figuring in the business of manufacturing; and the man who believes he can run along with antiquated machines, carelessness, and a general rule-of-thumb method of doing things, is a man who has failure before him as certainly as the sun shines."

GOOD PLANS FOR THE NEW YEAR.

Our wish for all our readers is that each may have a happy and a prosperous New Year in 1887. In taking leave of the old year and entering upon the new, it is natural to make good resolutions, and it is wise to make yearly balances. We advocate both. Let every business man sum up the results of the year and cast about, seeking by what means he may better results next year.

There is a class of men, usually unsuccessful, to whose careful consideration the *Iron Age* presents a good resolution, which, if carefully followed, should go far toward putting them on the road to better fortune. The class referred to consists of those tradesmen who pay their bills by their personal checks on their local banks, or who wait to be drawn upon and then refuse to pay exchange, perhaps after asking the bank to hold the draft a week for their accommodation. These men, says the *Age*, are sneak thieves in the trade. "Of course they know that merchandise bills are payable at the time when due, and at the place where the goods were bought. They have been told this a thousand times, and when they seek to pay their bills by local checks which cost their creditor 25 cents or more each to collect, or repudiate the exchange on the draft, they commit a petty theft which they hope may be passed over because of its very pettiness, and consider themselves sharp fellows because of their small rascality." * * * "To say nothing of the contempt with which he is regarded by his creditor, the man who does this to make 25 cents has lost many times the amount in financial standing, and his creditor will generally get back at him in ways well known to the jobbing trade, with good interest. No honorable business man ever practiced this small swindle. Few successful men ever did. The cost is too great. Let these persons then take this good resolution as the first step toward more satisfactory results in the future: "I will pay my bills at the time when and place where due, or, if unable to do that and my creditor is obliged to make drafts on me, I will meet his drafts as soon as