

come the objections of those who are continually charging us with being engaged in a work that is wholly Utopian.

It was stated in Parliament a few days ago, by a gentleman opposed to the purposes of the League that our objects could never be obtained, unless Great Britain would admit to her markets colonial products free, whilst exacting a duty upon merchandise coming from foreign countries, and that, he said, the Mother Country would never do. It is not by any means clear that this gentleman was correct in the statement he made, and if he were it would in my opinion be no hindrance to the unity of the Empire upon a principle that would preserve and continue it, and in such a way that if the English-speaking people in America are again to be made one, the reunion could take place under the old flag rather than under the new.

I remain very truly yours, etc.,  
C. N. SKINNER.

FROM PROF. GOLDWIN SMITH.

THE GRANGE, TORONTO, March 16, 1888.

DEAR MR. MERRITT,—Accept my best thanks for your courtesy in sending me and Mrs. Goldwin Smith invitations for the meeting of the Imperial Federation League. I should have liked very much to be there, but we are off for the South to-morrow.

Very truly yours,

GOLDWIN SMITH.

W. Hamilton Merritt, Esq.

FROM PRINCIPAL GRANT.

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY, KINGSTON, March 20th.

May you have a most successful meeting and give an impetus to the good cause all over the Province! I wish I could be with you.

Ever yours,

G. M. GRANT.

OTHER REGRETS.

Hon. Joseph Royal telegraphed as follows :

Dalton McCarthy, Pres. Imperial Federation League, Toronto.

Am engaged in L'Assomption election. Regret it will be impossible to be present at your league meeting.  
J. ROYAL.

The following also wrote regrets :

Hon. J. S. D. Thompson,	Mr. Justice Burton,
Hon. Thos. White,	Mr. Justice Street,
Hon. Speaker Oimet,	Mr. Justice Rose,
Hon. G. A. Kirkpatrick,	Mr. W. D. Matthews,
	Pres. Board of Trade.
Robert Hall, M.P.,	Henry Lyman,
	Montreal.

Hon. O. Mowat,	Jas. Mason,
Hon. A. M. Ross,	Rev. Principal Caven,
Hon. A. S. Hardy,	Chas. Moss, Q.C.,
Hon. Speaker Baxter,	Major Nash,
His Lordship Bishop	
Sweetman,	Donald Mack,
Rev. Canon DuMoulin,	Dr. Aikins,
Sir W. P. Howland,	Sir D. Macpherson,

#### The Chairman's Speech.

The Chairman, who was received with applause, said: Ladies and gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure indeed to be here this evening. I can assure you from the bottom of my heart that I feel it no ordinary honor to preside over a meeting so large, so influential, and so thoroughly representative in every respect of the great interests, commercial and otherwise, of this the Queen City of the West. (Applause.) When I speak of the interests of this city I am perhaps wrong, because I see before me representatives from all parts of our great, wide and glorious

Dominion. (Applause.) It is not my intention nor is it indeed my place to delay you by any remarks on an occasion such as this. During the last week or ten days I have heard sufficient speeches to satisfy me, certainly, but I am glad to have the opportunity this evening of hearing and seeing something of a different character. At the same time I would have it thoroughly understood by all that this is not a political meeting. (Hear, hear.) It is simply a meeting to consider what is best to be done, so that the bonds which tie us to the old Mother Land may, if possible, be drawn more tight. (Applause.) When we look at that dear old Mother Land we see that those leading there in the great question of Imperial Federation are men who embarked in its cause irrespective of party considerations. I regret that in this country the lines of politics are perhaps drawn so closely that it is hard for us to look at the subject entirely apart from those considerations, but perhaps as we grow older in the matter we may also grow wiser and better able to regard the subject more dispassionately. If I thought this were to be regarded simply as a Conservative or a Liberal meeting I should not have accepted the great honor tendered to me of presiding over this great meeting. We find that in England the first president of the League was the late Right Hon. Mr. Forster, a Liberal, (applause) and the present chief or president of the English Imperial Federation League is the talented Lord Rosebery, who is not only a Liberal, but who, at the present time, might be considered an extreme Liberal, when I say that he is a Gladstonian, (applause), and here in Canada we have Sir John A. Macdonald (applause) and Sir Charles Tupper members of the League, and, at the same time, we find such men as the Hon. Mr. Mowat and Hon. G. W. Ross on the other political side. I hope, therefore, that you will consider we are here entirely as a non-political party, that we are here simply to consider what means are best to be taken so that Britons living in Canada may be drawn more closely to their brother Britons and Britonesses who are living across the ocean, (applause), and it is allowable for me, perhaps, to notice that I am greatly pleased to see that not only is this meeting crowded to the very doors with able and representative men of Toronto and from various parts of the Dominion, but the committee in their wisdom have taken care to provide suitable accommodation for the fairer portion of the community. (Applause.) It augurs well for our cause that they should grace such a meeting as this with their presence. Their hearts I think are always right and sound, and they are able to grasp at conclusions more rapidly and surely than we slow-going debating old fogies can do. (Laughter and applause.) Gentlemen from various parts