

points brought out in the paper which accompanies this letter have already, at different times, found expression. A contribution to the discussion containing valuable statistical and other matter was also made in August of last year in the form of a supplement to the Journal by Mr. Henniker Heaton, M.P., who has devoted so much study to postal affairs, and to whom every subsequent worker in the same field owes so much for the valuable official information and statistics he has elicited. Nevertheless, it is felt by some active members of the League—yourself, who have always shown so much interest in this branch of our work, among others—that something more might usefully be written on the subject; something fuller than is appropriate to the reports of the Postal Committee or to the columns of *Imperial Federation*; something, also, written more distinctively from the standpoint of the League than any of the statements promulgated by Mr. Heaton, whose postal principles are by no means identical with those which, as I understand them, underlie the policy of the League.

There are special reasons for bringing the matter forward again in this manner at the present moment. The reductions in Colonial Postage brought into effect on the first day of the present year, while an unquestioned boon so far as they go, involve nevertheless an insidious element of danger to the cause of Imperial Postage. The identity of the letter-rate with that of the Postal Union was too significant not to excite suspicion in those whose aim is a uniform rate of postage throughout the Empire within and without the United Kingdom. The authorities at the Post Office and the Treasury felt the time to have come when the former exorbitant rates must be given up; but they apparently decided that the International Postal Union should form the basis of the Imperial Postal system of the future, outside the United Kingdom. These fears have only too soon been justified. The Australasian and South African Colonies, which are the principal groups that have hitherto stood outside the Postal Union, have been pressed by the English Postmaster-General to be represented by delegates at the forthcoming quinquennial con-