

National Ideals.

Imperialism.



IMPERIAL Federation involves a loss, or diminution of Canadian autonomy". That is, or seems to be, the attitude of those to whom "Imperialism" is a "fee-faw-fum", bug-a-boo, a remorseless dragon—or lion—*quærens quem devoret*; ready to swallow Canada "body, bones and hymn-book too."

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The philosopher, God wot, is no politician, nor would he, willingly, tread on sensitive corns—having a many, doubtless of his own. But the bug-a-boo is surely, the veriest "turmut-head" white-sheet bogey ever devised by the most ignorant prejudice. Sirs, be not offended at that word. ignorance. It is invincible sometimes, in politics as in theology.

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Call it misunderstanding if you will, and let us return to our autonomy. It was wrung, you say, from an unwilling British Parliament. Possibly; but British statesmen, of to-day, have no conscious desire to recall, or even to limit the gift. They are not fools, nor are they mad. Perhaps they, also, misunderstand.

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Does Federation necessarily limit, or diminish the autonomy of the parties to the agreement? If so, why did her four Canadian Provinces federate, in 1867? The advantages, surely, outweighed the seeming loss of Provincial autonomy; rather, the greater autonomy was seen to include the lesser. Better to help govern the Dominion than an autonomous Province only.