

SIR CHARLES TUPPER'S LETTER.

In 1891, Lord Salisbury requested a deputation from The Imperial Federation League to prepare and submit some scheme. The League appointed a committee; the committee failed; and the League dissolved (1893). Sir Charles Tupper was a member of the committee. In its consultations, he had to fight those who proposed colonial contributions; and, afterwards, he wrote as follows:

"Knowing as I do that the most active members of the committee were mainly intent on levying a large contribution on the revenues of the colonies for the support of the army and navy of Great Britain, I am delighted to have been able, almost single-handed, to obtain such a report from such a committee."

In 1909, shortly after the Naval and Military Conference of that year (July and August) at which the Australian plan of contribution to the British navy was abandoned, and the scheme of local navies (for which Canada had always contended) had been adopted both by Australia and the Admiralty, Sir Charles Tupper wrote to Mr. Borden the following letter:

The Mount, Bexley Heath, November 20, 1909.

"My Dear Mr. Borden,—I have read with much interest the
 "communication of the Canadian correspondent of the *Times* on
 "naval defence in to-day's issue of that paper. I regard that ques-
 "tion as more important than any mere party issue, and am glad
 "to learn that you are resolved to maintain the patriotic attitude
 "of the Conservative party assumed last session. A few years
 "ago, when Canada was struggling to open up for British settlement
 "the great granary of the world, a few gentlemen here raised the
 "question of a Canadian contribution to the imperial navy. I
 "JOINED ISSUE WITH THEM AND WAS SUSTAINED BY THE PRESS AND
 "PUBLIC OPINION. It was admitted that Canada was not only no
 "burden to the mother country, but without her harbors and coal
 "mines on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, Britain would require a
 "larger navy. *Contrast the progress of Canada, Australia and*
"New Zealand under imperial management, and since it was re-
"linquished, and it will be seen to whom their present importance
"is due.

"In an evil hour for the British Empire, Cobdenism was allowed
 "to sweep away the protection policy which had made England
 "mistress of the manufactures of the world and place all her colonies