

States. For all these reasons the retention of the Maritime Colonies at least of British America, is not only prudent, but imperative, on our part. But we are convinced that these colonies would advantageously come into closer partnership with us, and would not come empty-handed. The nearest of our great dependencies, almost within a week's sail of England, peopled by a sturdy race, who share our sentiments and are loyal to our principles, having room for many millions more, and rich in industrial records of untold value would form suitable helpmates in peace or war. In the Maritime Provinces alone are sixty thousand seamen, carrying on a great commerce under the British Flag, and ready to fight for it in a way worthy of the stout old stock from which they spring. These men were reared from their boyhood in the same nursery which has enabled France at last to form a navy—in the shoal waters and cross currents of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and in the cold tempestuous seas of Labrador. Such a race and such resources are not to be lightly abandoned, and ought not even to be left neglected, till we find them thrown into the scale against us in some future balance of power.

The military rather than the commercial aspects of the question have been discussed so far, because defence is the problem of the time, and because that forms the first reason for Imperial levy. But the commercial argument is not a weak one. If we had space to follow it out we might show how wonderfully adapted for the extension of co-operative industry are the physical peculiarities of our complex dominions. Every variety of climate affords, in bulk, an unparalleled array of combined production. Apart from the foreign trade of every section, the same flag covers the argosies of India, the wool and gold dust of Australia, the wheat cargoes from Canadian prairies, and the timber fleets of New Brunswick, all entering our ports, to be exchanged for the abundant fabrics of our looms and foundries. We do not actually develop a mutual commerce with our colonial empire to such an extent as would be possible with a judicious system of organization, in which the representative influence of all its parts in the central machinery would accomplish greater results, and prevent the tendency of some of our provinces, when left to themselves, to withdraw from the empire by building up hostile tariffs, to the prejudice of other parts of the Queen's dominions.

The main difficulty, in truth, lies not so much in the feasibility of the scheme as in the willingness of those chiefly concerned to accept it. A multitude of details must be inevitable, requiring adjustment and modification to suit so many separate sections, yet success would be worth the trouble. The day is past when Imperial taxation might be a bugbear to our colonial fellow subjects.

After all, the light and moderate levy that would be requisite, when all were taxed in just proportions would be an inconsiderable fraction of the expenses independence would entail on each colony apart; and in the case of British America, would be a bagatelle compared with the grinding imposts she would suffer if now annexed to the United States. For a comparatively small amount, our weakest colony, worthy of representation in the Imperial councils, would then share the privileges and the prestige of a first-class Power, while such a policy would so settle the future of the colonies on sure foundations, that emigration and capital would flow to them in larger streams. Nor should there be much hesitation felt by Britain in taking her full grown children into such a partnership. They have not degenerated since they left her side. They are true to the ancestral traditions of the race. They all fly the same flag, they speak the same language as we do, and preserve as carefully as ourselves the common law of England. It is no objection to say, as some do, that the colonists of Greece or Rome received no such complete recognition of equality from their parent States, for that is simply a reminder that those States neglected a vital precaution for the prolongation of their power. When Rome commenced her career, by admitting the neighbors she subjugated to all the public privileges and responsibilities of the commonwealth, she grew fast enough, and acquired a unity as vigorous as that which England has attained to, where the descendant elements of the Norman and Saxon, Celt and Dane have been welded into a nation. But when she failed subsequently to widen the circle—when instead of including in her councils the representatives of all her empire, and making it thus wholly one, she treated her provinces as garrison stations, the great dominion had not sufficient attraction of cohesion for its mass, and broke the quicker for its weight. Such a policy gave her as little hold upon the races she civilized, as the wave has upon the sand it wrinkles—and we all know how easily the tide of Roman Supremacy ebbed forever from our English beaches. The relation of the Greek States and their colonies could only be analogous to ours if England had remained till now a heptarchy.

But even in Greek politics, when a common centralizing policy was impossible, the best episodes of military success were in the conjunctures when Greek joined Greek, and metropolitan and colonist, Ionian and Athenian acted together at the council board as well as the camp. Does it not seem possible that, if King George and his ministers had conceded Imperial representation to the British colonies last century, they might have paid over quietly the war taxes demanded? Is it not, indeed, probable, that if Washington and Franklin had sat in the House of Commons as representatives of the Transatlantic Englishmen, there would have been no American Revolution, and the Queen's writ to-day might be current to the Golden Gate of San Francisco.

Consolidation of the Anglo-Saxon race then would have given us a majestic ideal of unity very different from the existing state of things, and might have spared the history of humanity the necessity of writing some of her subsequent pages in brothers' blood.

However, this principle of consolidation is no abstract speculation. Britain must early choose her course. The cross-roads must, sooner or later, come in sight—the cross bids of dismemberment or organization.—Thirty millions of people cannot go on for ever supporting so large an empire alone, and protecting beyond their homes, one-third of the earth's surface and one-fourth of its population. If the empire breaks up, the British race

must be content for a while to come down in the scale of nations. The recall of our soldiers from abroad will be, like the homeward flight of the scarlet flamingoes, a sure signal of sunset. On the contrary a vigorous consolidation of the fifty great provinces and dependencies we hold would not only secure our pre-eminence in Christendom, but make peace within our borders more permanent. The strongest of the other powers would hesitate about provoking a quarrel with a national organization that could assail them from every quarter of the globe, or before striking a blow that would be returned with the momentum of nearly two hundred millions. The British empire would be no longer a vague geographical expression; it would be a system like that to which our planet itself conforms—a system of distinct communities attracting and influencing each other, revolving round a glorious centre, and conforming to laws of constant and harmonious progress whose force is undiminished by the lapse of ages.

The decline and fall of such an empire need never be anticipated till doomsday for any law of the race that exists to the contrary; and the New Zealander of the Whig essayist's imagination need never moralize on London Bridge, except on his way to Westminster to confer with his representative at the Imperial Parliament, and would serve then to illustrate the grand fact that men from the world's end might be designated in London what we were, in a less illustrious sense, ever styled in Rome. "Ultimos orbe Britannos."

## INDUSTRIAL NOTES.

The *Hants Journal* had some excellent remarks last week on the duty of encouraging our own manufactures, which we fully and heartily endorse, believing it to be a principle far too little thought of. Taking the Windsor Cotton Company for an example, it is pointed out that the goods produced at their factory are, to say the least, equal to similar articles made in other localities. This being granted, why is it, it is asked, that in all the dry goods houses Windsor cottons are not given the preference? The *Hants Journal* puts this matter in such apt terms that we cannot do better than quote parts of its just contention:—"Their marked absence has on more than one occasion led the editor of the JOURNAL to institute inquiries as to the cause, and, so far as he can learn, it lies with the people themselves,—the merchant, the artisan, the laborer, the agriculturist, in fact all classes, who, while being largely benefited by the handsome expenditure incident to such a factory, have so far failed to reach their duty in this matter—the patriotic duty of seeking to extend the output of the cotton manufactures of Windsor by using no other cottons, and by creating such a demand for them at the dry goods stores that they will take the leading place on the shelves of these establishments. This is a matter that lies within the control of the people themselves, and if in the past their indifference regarding the manufactures of one of their own local industries may be attributed to want of thought rather than to a lack of patriotism, let them atone for the past by more thoughtfulness respecting an enterprise which benefits the entire community, both sellers and buyers in every branch of trade. It is a well known fact that the gentlemen whose money is invested in the Cotton Factory have not so far had occasion to consider their capital well invested, owing to the large output of cotton goods and consequently low prices in Canada, but an improvement is taking place; and is it not plainly the duty of all Windsorians and others throughout the country who are either directly or indirectly benefited by the Company's expenditure, to assist in making the production of Windsor cottons a more profitable industry. Let every maiden and guidwife make it a rule to ask for Windsor cottons, and to take no other, and there will soon be a change, and one which should take place. It is the bounden duty of all to extend the business of the Cotton Factory, because by its operations a large amount of money is circulated annually in the various channels of trade, the want of which would be seriously felt should the factory, from any cause, be suspended. The same principle should be observed with reference to the productions of all our local manufacturing enterprises, on the ground that by so doing we show our appreciation of what our capitalists are doing in this direction, and honestly aim to encourage them in their laudable undertakings. Let us, one and all, seek to encourage our local enterprises by every means in our power, and create a greater demand for manufactures by using them more extensively than has been the case in the past." If all through Canada this principle were carried out locally a very sensible difference in the output of our manufactories would soon be apparent. It is a patriotic duty incumbent on every Canadian to bear in mind. It has always been difficult to us to understand why a preference should be shown for imported goods when the home-made article is as good. Years ago Canadian produced tweeds equal to the Scotch, and many persons, within our knowledge, made it a point to use them. Those who complain of a protective tariff can at least, if they choose, exempt themselves from some portion of its impost by consuming home manufactures, as a fixed principle, to the utmost of their power.

A Butter Factory is soon to be started in Sackville, N. B., by Mr. Barber of St. John. He has stored a quantity of ice, and is now making preparations to erect a building which is to be 50 feet long and 20 wide, with an engine building at one side. A factory of this kind, properly conducted, should be a financial success, and we should very much like to hear of some similar enterprise being started in this province.

Mr. Thomas Fillmore, who has a stone quarry near Oxford Station, has contracted with Rhodes, Curry & Co., to supply stones for the foundations of the several buildings they are to erect on the Oxford & New Glasgow Ry.—*Amherst Gazette*.