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the debate to which you, Mr. President, have referred, which took place recently in the Dominion Parliament, and the moral of which was summed up in the conclusion of the eloquent speech of Mr. M'Neill, the mover of a loyal and patriotic resolution, when he said,—  
"The British people are one people, animated by one spirit, and determined to stand together as one man in defence of their common rights and in the maintenance of their common interests." ("Hear, hear," and cheers.) "We desire peace before all, we regard war with horror, but we are prepared to accept it with all its consequences, come from what quarter it may, if it be necessary to do so in order to defend the honour and the integrity of our own Empire." (Cheers.) I call your attention to the last words of the orator. He speaks of "our own Empire," and he struck the right chord, for the Empire of Great Britain is the common heritage of all her sons, and is not the appanage of the United Kingdom alone. (Cheers.) Now, in the course of that debate many speeches were made all to the same effect, and the resolution was unanimously passed with acclamation.

#### IMPERIAL FEDERATION.

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But again and again allusion was made to the opportunity, to the occasion, which every well-wisher to the unity of the Empire was bound to seize, and a hope was expressed that something might be done to bring us nearer together. Sir, we share that hope. ("Hear, hear," and cheers), and I ask you now, gentlemen, is this demonstration, this almost universal expression of loyalty from all our Colonies, to pass away without a serious effort upon the part both of colonial and Imperial statesmen to transform these high sentiments into practical results? (Cheers.) I have, at any rate, thought that it was my duty the first time I had the opportunity of speaking at least to call attention to the position of this great question, which has been before us now for a good number of years, which has appealed strongly to the sentiments of the people, but which has not up to the present time resulted in anything like a practical scheme. In the year 1884 a league was formed—the Imperial Federation League—under the most favourable auspices. The late Mr. Forster was its president, and it afterwards enjoyed the assistance of a long series of distinguished statesmen and prominent personages; but two years ago it was dissolved without having accomplished its object, unless, indeed, its chief object was the education of public opinion to the importance of the subject. Sir, I think that we may, at all events, learn from its experience that the realization of our hopes, if they are in the direction of a federation of the Empire—their final