

London, contains the following, among its many ringing sentences : —“ If there are any communities of British origin anywhere who desire to enjoy all the privileges and immunities of the Queen's subject without paying for and defending them, let us ascertain who and where they are—let us measure the proportions of political repudiation *now*, in a season of tranquility—when we have leisure to gauge the extent of the evil and to apply correctives, rather than wait till war finds us unprepared and leaning upon presumptions in which there is no reality.” Mr. Blake evidently believes the time for federating the empire has gone by. He made a plea for federation in his Aurora speech in 1874, but has dropped the subject since. And in his late letter he prefaces his opinion that the future of Canada should be settled by deliberation and not by drift with these significant words, “ while not disguising my view that *events have already greatly narrowed our apparent range and impeded our apparent liberty of action.*”

Though not, I trust, already past, the time for attaining full national life in equal partnership with other members of the empire is certainly passing. Canada is becoming more and more the “ be-all and end-all ” for Canadians, as Australia is for Australians.\* Some advocates of imperial federation are unwilling to accept it unless it be linked with an imperial zollverein or some favorite fad of their own. Others pretend to favour it only to stave off annexation until Canada is strong enough for independence. If the chief dependencies of the empire are ever to vote that the majestic whole is of more importance even than its nearest and dearest part, and that the coherence of the whole requires a reciprocity of rights and obligations between its co-ordinate parts, the vote must be taken soon.

But for the dangers attending the half century or so that must elapse before the country is sufficiently rich and populous for a secure independence—dangers that imperil the supremacy with Providence seems to offer the Anglo-Saxon race for a beneficent end—the present verdict of Canada would doubtless be for the

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\*The threatening attitude of the United States and, more lately, of Germany has since decidedly checked this tendency and fanned the flame of imperial patriotism in all the great colonies.