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IMPERIAL FEDERATION AND CANADIAN DEFENCES.\*

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WHILE Imperial Federation is a scheme which has as yet few earnest advocates—earnest in the sense in which Wilberforce and other great social reformers devoted the aims and energies of a lifetime, to the furtherance of the questions which they severally advocated—the many reject it as being altogether outside the pale of practical politics, the impossible dream of enthusiasts. Be this as it may, and it is impossible to ignore the many difficulties which attend its consummation, the idea is a grand one—one calculated to appeal to the nobler impulses of the Anglo-Saxon race, whose energy and tenacity of purpose have brought to a successful issue many a project which appeared equally difficult of realization. It were strange if the genius of a race that has ever led the van in all that pertains to humanity, civilization, science, and enlightenment, that has been preëminently successful in planting and maintaining colonies in every corner of the globe, should fail in uniting to itself, in one grand consolidation, its several offshoots, and if, when once the necessity

for action presses sufficiently home, men will not be found, in the mother country and the colonies, of sufficient grasp of mind and earnestness of purpose to conduct to a satisfactory conclusion a conception involving such infinite possibilities. It may be observed how strong in all ages have been race instincts towards aggregation, and no time should be lost in directing Anglo-Saxon sentiment into this channel, and in educating public opinion for the effort. The primary object of those who have the success of the movement at heart should be to endeavour to counteract the effects of the vicious policy years ago inaugurated by the Manchester School, suggestive of the idea then more or less openly expressed, and now probably secretly entertained, that the sooner the colonies accepted and acted upon their destiny—separation from the mother country—the better. It behoves England to declare, in no uncertain tones, how highly she prizes her connection with her colonies, and that any movement having for its object the disintegration of the Empire will meet with

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