

great regret that I cannot be present at the meeting of the Imperial Federation League to-morrow evening!

The objects of the League have my very earnest sympathy, and I think they are such as may well commend the support of every loyal Canadian (without distinction of party) who desires to uphold the unity of the Empire.

Lord Roseberry and others who have taken an active part in the movement in England, have shown conclusively in how many practical ways the bonds can be drawn closer between Britain and all her colonies, to their mutual gain and advantage.

The Colonial conference of last year was very helpful in that direction, and, we may hope, is only the precursor of many more such gatherings of representatives from all quarters of the Empire for taking counsel together in respect to all that concerns their common interests.

I heartily hope that the meeting in Toronto may be in every way a success and worthy of the occasion for which it is called.

Faithfully yours,

G. W. ALLAN.

FROM HON. ALEXANDER MORRIS,

Toronto, 21st March, 1888.

DEAR SIR,—I am favored with your letter inviting me to be present at a public meeting to be held on Saturday under the auspices of the Imperial Federation League in Canada, and regret that I will be unable to be present.

In these days of some unrest, when chimerical schemes are being proposed for adoption by Canada, which I believe to be fraught with danger and likely to impede the career of progress on which Canada entered in Confederation, and during which such remarkable results have been attained, it is cheering to know that thinking men in the old land as well as the colonies are considering how the Imperial tie is best to be strengthened and maintained and the colonies are to be knit together with the central power. I cannot doubt that statesmanship will find a solution for the problem. In fact I believe that a solution has been found in the creation of the Dominion of Canada, which possesses the second Parliament of the Empire, and which the Parliament of Britain enacted should be composed "of the Queen, the Senate and the House of Commons," enjoying the almost political freedom and the widest latitude for national and material advancement. I believe in the people of Canada working out their own destiny, on the lines which the statesmen of both parties laid down twenty years ago. And so acting, I have the utmost faith that the conviction I expressed in 1869 will yet be realized and "Australia and British America, drawing from Britain their religion, their literature, their language and their national characteristics will continue to rival each other in the magnitude of their resources and in the rapidity of their development. While the impress of the British mind will be stamped upon and reproduced in what are, in the lapse of time, destined eventually to be great kindred nations, bound together by the ties of origin and by parental and filial affection."

Let our people cherish patriotism to our country and our Empire and steadily pursue the path of development and progress, and time, that mighty factor, will show British subjects how best to combine and consolidate the Empire into one harmonious whole.

I am, your obedient servant,

ALEXANDER MORRIS, P.C.

To W. Hamilton Merritt, Esq.,

Hon. Secretary Toronto Branch

Imperial Federation League,

FROM SIR A. T. GALT.

MONTREAL, March 20, 1888.

DEAR SIR,—It would have given me sincere pleasure to have been present at the meeting of the Federation League in Toronto on the 24th

inst., as I take the warmest interest in this important question. But unfortunately I have other engagements, in view of my early departure for England, which forbids it.

Believe me, yours faithfully,

A. T. GALT.

W. H. Merritt, Esq.,

Honorary Secretary.

FROM HON. JOHN MACDONALD.

THE SENATE, OTTAWA, March 23, 1888.

To Wm. Hamilton Merritt, Esq., Toronto,

DEAR SIR,—I will be unable to be present in Association hall to-morrow evening. I am in ignorance of what is understood as the platform of the "Imperial Federation in Canada," neither do I know what political significance is attached to this name. This much I can say. That while we should steadily maintain the kindest feelings towards the great nation with whom we have so much in common, and whose border joins our own, it is nevertheless at once the duty and the interest of every Canadian to do everything in his power to maintain the connection of the Dominion with the Mother Country, a connection which has proved of inestimable advantage to Canada, and the severance of which could only be regarded as a great calamity.

Very truly yours,

JNO. MACDONALD.

FROM C. H. TUPPER, M.P.

March 23, 1888.

MY DEAR MR. MCCARTHY,—At the last moment I find it necessary for me to go at once to my family in Halifax, and so I am prevented from having the pleasure of attending the meeting in favor of Imperial Federation at Toronto to-morrow night. This is to me a great disappointment, as I had with much pleasure counted upon being there.

Wishing the meeting success,

I am, yours very truly,

CHARLES H. TUPPER.

FROM C. N. SKINNER, M.P.

OTTAWA, March 20th, 1888.

Wm. Hamilton Merritt, Esq., Secretary, etc.

DEAR SIR,—I am in receipt of the invitation of the president, vice-president, and committee of the Toronto branch of the Imperial Federation League, to attend the annual general meeting of the League at Toronto on Saturday, the 24th inst.

I appreciate very highly the kindness extended to me by the invitation, but I regret exceedingly that I am compelled to go to St. John, so as to be there on the 24th inst., and therefore cannot attend the meeting.

The objects of the League have my full support and sympathy. I believe that as the colonies ripen up towards full national life they should look to their incorporation into the Empire rather than to a separation from it. Those who oppose the attaining the objects of the League endeavor to magnify the difficulties of detail in such a way as to elevate them into principles and thereby if possible, prevent the consummation of our purposes.

Our people in the past have largely, and nearly always successfully, met every exigency as it arose connected with the extension, stability and preservation of British power and liberty, and I fully believe that in the future they will show themselves equal to the preservation of the great Empire to which all true Canadians are not only proud to at present belong, but also look forward hopefully for a continuance of the connection in some form during all the future.

I think the time has arrived when action should be taken for the preparation of a plan, upon which Imperial Federation can be established, in order that the public mind may not only be influenced by the grandeur of the idea, but see that it is capable of being carried out in a practical manner as well, so as to meet and over-