

INTRODUCTORY LETTER.

To Sir DANIEL COOPER, Bart., G.C.M.G.

DEAR SIR DANIEL COOPER,—Imperial communications form so important a link in the chain of common interests binding together the scattered fragments of the British Empire, that the Imperial Federation League has always given an important place, among the means towards its end, to the establishment of these communications upon such a footing as would at once mark the unity of the Empire and help to ensure its permanence. Uniform Imperial Postage is not, indeed, any more an actual part or necessary condition precedent of Imperial Federation in its strictly political sense, than is the Commercial Union of the Empire which, in one form or another, is just now so much advocated. But, like Commercial Union (the attainment of which in almost any form is surrounded by such enormous difficulties), Uniform Imperial Postage would undoubtedly tend very strongly towards that National Unity, the completion and maintenance of which is the aim of the Imperial Federation League. Of the telegraphic branch of our communications I do not here speak. Imperial considerations enter into that side of the matter also; but the circumstances and conditions are so entirely different that the two cannot be treated together.

The League has, through its Postal Committee, kept the subject of Uniform Imperial Postage before the Governments and the public both at home and in the Colonies, while in Canada the matter has been specifically brought before the Dominion Government by the League there. The work of the London committee has borne fruit in the action taken, upon its suggestions and recommendations, by a great number of Chambers of Commerce and other bodies of like nature. The subject has also received due attention in the Journal of the League, where many of the