

above, and that is that each State of the Federation should be self-contained and omnipotent in their own dominions. What was surrendered to the central authority in London would need to be clearly defined, and some quick and easy remedy put into the hands of the State by which they would be able to resist any encroachment upon their liberty. A supreme judicial court to decide such points of international difference as may crop up, seems the most likely way out of the difficulty. All interference with the internal arrangements of each State would need to be sternly resisted. When all this was done we would miss the wholesome rivalry of nations, something of a provincial character would still cling to the local capital, and there would be a tendency for the more ambitious members of the commonwealth to seek employment in the Imperial capital.*

Let us now try and sum up the position of Imperial Federation when it became an accomplished fact. It would create the most powerful State the world ever saw, no foreign power or combination of rivals could ever hope to wage a successful war against us. As far as our shores were concerned, we would secure the blessings of peace. The genius of our people being commercial, the field for enterprise would be so immense that it is reasonable to expect that the general well-being of the whole people would be raised to a higher platform. While poverty and vice is never likely to be banished from the world, these might be kept in check, and ultimately be reduced to such proportions as to give little concern to the well-doing. The other races of the world would look up to us and learn the lesson of civilisation in the British School. Some have dreamt that a Union with the United States of America may be possible, and the whole English-speaking world federated into one great State. We see no signs of the near accomplishment of such a state of affairs; but apart from this, what a vast field is open to the enterprise and genius of the British people. The poet, the divine, the philosopher, and the scientist

* The national capitals, such as Edinburgh and Dublin, would be raised from their present position, being the seats of Government, but the Imperial capital would be correspondingly raised, having to deal with grander affairs. As the separate States of the Union would not meddle with foreign affairs, they would miss the rivalry which comes of such intercourse.