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CANADA AND IMPERIAL FEDERATION.

IN Great Britain, and in several of the larger colonies, the subject of Imperial Federation has been somewhat discussed of late. A central league has been formed at London with eminent men filling the chair in succession, and with a very formidable list of dignitaries from the four quarters of the globe as vice-presidents and members of council. Several league meetings have been held. Branch leagues have been formed in Canada, Australia, and other colonies. An official organ has been established, and the movement may be said to have a *locus standi*. In such a matter the ultimate question is the important one. It is not of much consequence whether the leading statesmen of the day recognise the movement or ignore it. The vital point is—does the project rest upon a sound basis? Does it offer a wise solution of the colonial question, which is a larger and more important one than the average Englishman is inclined to believe? If it does, then it will steadily grow in importance until the politicians will have to take it up. If it is impracticable, and surrounded by hopeless difficulties, then, of course, it will collapse, and the very worthy gentlemen who are now giving it their patronage and support, will quietly drop it.

The difficulty at the outset is want of understanding on the question. The people of the British Islands are very apt to look upon it as a matter of privilege to admit colonists to a coequal position in the control of the empire; and the people of the larger and more important colonies look upon it as a matter of considerable merit on their part that they should give up any part of their absolute freedom of action in order to throw in their lot with the empire, and that they should voluntarily resign the position of freedom from any expense in connection with the army and navy in order to assume a share of the burden. In this way the imperial federationist of Great Britain has one idea and one set of difficulties in his mind, while the colonial imperial federationist has another idea and a different set of difficulties in his mind. Under such circumstances, it is an act of superior wisdom on the part of the active promoters of federation to resist strenuously any attempt to define in words or phrases the precise meaning of the movement.

The largest and most important of Great Britain's Colonial possessions is the Dominion of Canada. It has an area of over three and a half millions of square miles. It has a population of at least five millions and is rapidly growing. It has large cities and rising towns. Its trade is expanding and its wealth accumulating. It has