

Where We Stand.

A correspondent writes, "Will the ANGLO-SAXON define its position on the great question of 'Our National Future,' now being so much discussed in the Canadian press?" The ANGLO-SAXON does not propose to shirk the issue, and of the choice of one of the four alternatives now offered us, (1) Annexation, (2) Commercial Union, (3) Independence, or (4) Imperial Federation, declares unhesitatingly for an Imperial Federal Union first, last, and all the time. How could it be otherwise? The obligation which each member of the Sons of England Order has taken pledges him to the maintenance of British connection, and we believe that that connection will best be maintained by some plan of Federal Union to be hereafter determined. The opponents of Imperial Federation term it "a splendid dream," but we think before many years are over, it will take form as a substantial reality. In this issue it is not proposed to discuss what is meant, or rather what we mean, by a Federal Union of the Empire. Rather for the present we propose to discuss the other questions which our correspondent presents to our notice.

Annexation should have few attractions for Canadians or Canadian Englishmen. It implies the cutting off of all ties with the Motherland; it means the abrogation for all those Canadians not born on the soil of Canada, of part of their birthright as Britons, viz., the right to occupy the highest position in the gift of the people. It would entail the acceptance of a constitution far inferior to our own—the United States Cabinet responsible only to the President, the Cabinet of the Dominion responsible directly to the people through their representatives in Parliament. If a member of the United States Executive commits an error, Congress may clamor in vain for his removal, should the President decide otherwise. The United States constitution provides no remedy against such an abuse of the Presidential power. In Canada we do things differently. Let any Minister of the Crown transgress those well recognized principles of constitutional government, and condign punishment quickly overtakes him. Finally, annexation would mean the grafting on to our political and municipal life of those corrupt elements which have made the institutions of the United States a by-word among the nations. As yet "Tammany Hall" or "Boss Tweed" rings do not find a congenial home on Canadian soil, but if the Dominion were annexed to the States, how long would it be before the men who compose these organizations would be endeavouring to obtain control of our different representative bodies? For those who are fond of pointing to the United States as the greatest country on the face of God's Earth, we commend a careful perusal of the speech of Col. Donan, which will be found in another column. While it may be fairly conceded that the Dakotan orator's word picture is somewhat overdrawn, yet those who know anything of life in the States cannot but acknowledge that it is fairly true to life. We do not seek to claim that in Canada alone virtue dwells. We go to church regularly on the Sabbath and hear the pastor read occasionally the old parable of the Pharisee and the Publican. We freely admit that there are excrescences on our institutions which should be lopped off, but we do maintain that nowhere in Canada has corruption, anarchy or socialism attained such a foothold as they have in the United States.

What shall we say of Commercial Union? In dealing with this subject we are conscious that we may be treading on the corns of some of our more sensitive friends. But even at the risk of doing this we deem it our duty to declare that in our opinion the advocacy of Commercial Union is incompatible with the O.B. of a Son of England. We are open to conviction otherwise, and if any brother thinks differently to us, the ANGLO-SAXON will be glad to hear from him. The great question which has been dinned into the ears of commercial unionists in Canada for months past and still remains unanswered is this: "If Canada having entered into a commercial union or zollverein with the United

States and the United States decides to discriminate against Great Britain (for it stands to reason that Washington would regulate the joint tariff, not Ottawa) of what country would Canada be a part—the British Empire or the United States? The answer is an obvious one, so obvious that the commercial union advocates shirk it all the time. And then there is that other question, which has yet to be met, "How, in the event of a proposed North American Zollverein, is Canada to make up for the deficiency of seven millions of revenue which to-day she derives from imports from the United States? But enough for the present. We desired to give the brethren something to think about and propose to return to the subject on a future occasion.

An Unpardonable Error.

One or two newspapers, notably the Ottawa *Free Press* and the Montreal *Herald* have made the Governor-General's reply to the address of the Ottawa lodges the text for an attack on the Sons of England Order as being a Tory organization. Our good friends ought to know better than to talk in such a naughty strain. We thought the educating influence of the ANGLO-SAXON had been such as to entirely disabuse the mind of the *F. P.* on that score. There may be some excuse for the *Herald* being misled by an incorrect despatch from Ottawa, but for our Ottawa contemporary to commit such a blunder, dear, dear, the thought is a saddening one, more particularly when we reflect that for months the "Aims and Objects" of the Order, as they appear on the last page of the ANGLO-SAXON, have been printed in the *Free Press* office. To our contemporaries we would say the Sons of England Society is not a political organization. Reformer and Conservative sit side by side in its lodge rooms animated by the same desire to advance the interests of the Order, to promote the welfare of brother Englishmen, and to stand by the old flag "that's braved a thousand years the battle and the breeze." Political discussions are not allowed in the lodge rooms and the result is that by drawing its membership from men of diverse views, the Sons of England Society has attained that rank among fraternal organizations which to-day makes it the envy of similar bodies.

As for the ANGLO-SAXON, it need hardly be pointed out that this journal is completely independent. Its columns are freely open to all Englishmen of whatever political persuasion they may be. While an Englishman remains under the glorious Union Jack and while that flag continues to fly from the citadel at Halifax, the battlements of Quebec, the Parliament buildings at Ottawa, Government House at Toronto, or the barracks at Victoria, an Englishman he must remain, but none the less is he a true Canadian, anxious to see this country prosperous and happy. As a Canadian it is his inalienable right to discuss questions likely to affect the future of the country in which his all is staked. The ANGLO-SAXON claims nothing but that right. We don't propose to deal out milk and water every month to our readers, but solid mental pabulum. Taking our stand on the Constitution of the Sons of England Order, and remembering our obligation, we propose to point out what we deem to be the right course to pursue on questions of vital moment. Some of these questions verge on the political and it may be difficult to draw the line at the point at which one should stop, but we trust that in the advocacy of those things which are for our country's good, we shall receive the cordial co-operation of all the brethren.

Political Dishonesty.

American politicians are noted for scurvy tricks and the latest sample—the trapping of Lord Sackville, British Minister at Washington, into an expression of opinion on the presidential election—is one which does not redound to the credit of the "machine." It is a matter of some surprise that Lord Sackville should have been caught napping, knowing,