

THE DOMINION AND THE EMPIRE.

move which was undeniably intended to give the existing administration a majority in the Senate was frustrated.

Of the third class a good example is the arbitration by Lord Kimberley between British Columbia and the Dominion in 1874,—when, as Mr. Todd says (ib.): “His terms were frankly accepted by the parties concerned, and contributed for a time to restore a good understanding between the Dominion and Provincial government.”

So, too, as to legislation, although the constitutional supremacy of the imperial parliament as formally reasserted by Imp. 28 & 29 Vic. c.63,—is indisputable. Yet, as stated as far back as 1839, in a despatch of Lord Glenelg to Sir Francis Head, then Lieut. Governor of Upper Canada, “parliamentary legislation on any subject of exclusively internal concern, in any British Colony possessing a representative assembly, is as a general rule unconstitutional.”

Mr. Todd gives in one part of his work an interesting sketch of the steps by which the colonies have acquired entire freedom in the regulation of their commerce, subject to certain limitations in regard to differential duties, and the observance of treaty obligations: a development of freedom which Mr. Anderson in his recent article in the *Contemporary Review* on the Future of the Canadian Dominion, forcibly deploras, with, it can scarcely be denied, some show of reason. In the case of Canada, the special instructions to colonial governors to reserve all bills, imposing differential duties (as also similar instructions as to other matters) are no longer issued, having been first omitted in the instructions to the Marquis of Lorn in 1878. Mr. Todd gives an account of the making of this change, and of the important part taken by Mr. Edward Blake therein, who observes in a passage quoted (p. 86), that the Crown

necessarily retains all its constitutional rights and powers, which would be exercisable in any emergency in which mutual good feeling, and proper consideration for imperial interests on the part of Her Majesty's Canadian advisers might be found to fail. And Mr. Todd points out (p. 139) that it is important to notice the continual exercise of imperial ascendancy over legislation in Canada up to the present time. He gives precedents of bills disallowed by the imperial Government, not only on the ground that they infringed upon the royal prerogative, but for other reasons, such for example as because repugnant to the B. N. A. Act or other imperial Acts, or because their provisions exceeded the powers of the Dominion Parliament.

In the case of all other governors however, except the Governor-General of Canada, the royal instructions direct the reservation of certain specified bills for the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure thereon. Such bills are bills affecting currency, the army and navy, differential duties, the operation and effect of treaties with foreign powers, and any enactments of an unusual nature touching the prerogative, or the rights of the Queen's subjects not resident in the particular colony, in short matters of imperial concern. (see Todd p. 131). And it is this necessity of protecting imperial interests which has led to the prerogative of vetoing legislation remaining in active exercise in the colonies, whereas it has fallen into disuse in England. Though even there Mr. Todd is careful to maintain that it still exists, and might in emergency be exercised. (p. 125.)

And in this connection Mr. Todd alludes (p. 184) to the recent appointments of Agents-general deputed by different colonies to reside in London, and watch over the interests of their respective colonies, and generally to transact business