

IMPERIAL AND COLONIAL CONFEDERATION.

AN Imperial Confederation has recently formed the subject of discussion both in this country and in Great Britain. Some writers have thought that the Home Rule agitation in Ireland may yet possibly result in the British Ministry taking into consideration a more comprehensive confederation than even Home Rulers have entertained. Mr. Blake a few months since took occasion publicly to suggest the reorganization of the empire on this basis, and within the past few weeks our Agent General has discussed the question in Manchester. That the subject has received the attention it recently has is, no doubt, one of the results of our Colonial Confederation. The country has made rapid progress since the consummation of Union; a national spirit has been aroused, and the people have now awakened to find that, though they have in domestic affairs a national status, yet in their relations with the other colonies and with foreign powers—relations which may affect their gravest interests—they have not the smallest voice unless by the direct authorization of the Home Government; and though entirely disinterested, and desirous of peace, they are at any moment liable to be plunged into a foreign war, imperilling their resources, and perhaps sacrificing many lives among them. This political situation, and the concurrent strong desire to perpetuate the connection with the empire, seem to have suggested here an Imperial Confederation in some form, as a political change under which the Colonies would be represented at Westminster, and thus acquire some control over their foreign relations, as well as those of the empire.

Mr. Blake appears to think that the time may be at hand when the people of this country will be called upon to discuss their relations to the empire, and Mr. Jenkins goes even farther in regarding the politi-