

—The leader of the Opposition has been expounding his policy. At Toronto it was merely the negation of the Pacific Railway Agreement and N. P. At Montreal it was Imperial Federation. This phantom still haunts us, though, like one of the spirits evoked by the mediums when a sceptic is present at the *seance*, it persistently refuses to “materialize.” Mr. Blake’s plan seems to be a union solely for the purpose, of mutual defence; but he does not answer the argument that union, by involving the Colonies in the quarrels of the Imperial country, will itself be the main and almost the sole source of peril. This brilliant scheme creates the very liability against which, by means of enormously complicated and expensive machinery, it provides. It is needless again to dwell on the difficulties which would beset the admission of distant communities, differing widely from each other in their external relations as well as in their internal character and interests, to the diplomatic and military councils of England. The episode of Jingoism, moreover, has surely proved that it is impossible to sever the department of foreign affairs from the general concerns of a country and to consign it, with questions between moderation and aggrandizement, between war and peace, to the keeping of a separate assembly. Each of the political parties in England has a foreign policy vitally connected with its general principles and congenial to its general temper, and neither would see the Federal Assembly taking a line antagonistic to its own without using all the means of opposition and obstruction in its power. A Jingo majority in the Federal Parliament might find itself in collision with an anti-Jingo majority in the Parliament of England which, in spite of any formal regulations that might be made, would practically have the control of the English purse. One or two such conflicts would shake the machine to pieces, and the net result would be anything rather than the increased union of the English race. A friendly hearer and critic of Mr. Blake’s speech said that when the speaker talked of Imperial Federation every one knew that he was thinking of Independence, and that the audience applauded in