

was about the best basis they could select." At a banquet given by the Premier of Victoria in honour of the members of the Federation Conference, the Hon. James Service who was fittingly called on to give the toast of "A United Australia," said: "The idea of a united Australasia has sunk deep into the hearts of the Australian people. It has touched their imagination and been approved by their sober judgment. . . . We want to see a Dominion Parliament, a Dominion Government, and a Governor-General sent from England. There is no difference of opinion on this point." After full consideration of the subject, privately in Committee as well as publicly, the delegates at their sixth and final sitting on the 14th of February, unanimously adopted the following address to Her Majesty:

"May it please your Majesty,—We, your Majesty's loyal and dutiful subjects, the members of the Conference assembled in Melbourne to consider the question of creating for Australia one Federal Government, and representing the Australasian colonies, desire to approach your Most Gracious Majesty with renewed expressions of our devoted attachment to your Majesty's throne and person. On behalf of your Majesty's subjects throughout Australasia, we beg to express the fervent hope that your Majesty's life may be long spared to reign over a prosperous and happy people. We most respectfully inform your Majesty that, after mature deliberation, we have unanimously agreed to the following resolutions: 'That, in the opinion of this Conference, the best interests and present and future prosperity of the Australian colonies will be promoted by an early union under the Crown; and, while fully recognising the valuable services of the members of the Convention of 1883 in founding the Federal Council, it declares its opinion that the seven years which have since elapsed have developed the national life of Australia in population, in wealth, in the discovery of resources, and in self-governing capacity, to an extent which justifies the higher act at all times contemplated of the union of these colonies under one legislative and executive Government on principles just to the several colonies. That to the union of the Australian colonies contemplated by the foregoing resolution the remoter Australasian colonies shall be entitled to admission at such times and on such conditions as may be hereafter agreed upon. That members of the Conference should take