

not leave matters alone? I reply: Self-government will end in separation if there be no such organization."

On what plan will the confederation of the British Empire be consummated? Probably on that of the American Federation. It will undoubtedly give great liberty to local legislatures; it will put into the hands of such bodies in Canada, Australia and the other colonies, the government of local matters; but it will retain imperial powers in the hands of an imperial Parliament. Professor Seelye, in his highly suggestive work on "*The Expansion of England*," has already most definitely recommended the American plan of union as the basis of a new confederation of the fragments of the great empire of which he is so proud. There would be a severance of imperial and local powers, a reorganization of Parliament, and such a representation of local legislators in an imperial legislature as to parallel the general principles of the American Union. Englishmen do not admire everything in American civilization; but since the Civil War, they have often been very frank in expressing their admiration of the principles underlying the Union. They admit that the political ideas of the age of Washington have shown themselves capable of holding together a great number of States between two oceans widely separated, and that perhaps no other principles known to history are fit to be the basis of a consolidated British Empire.

Let us not underrate the British States of North America. It has been my fortune lately, in Manitoba and in British Columbia, to meet with experiences which have given me a new conception of the dignity of the Canadian Dominion. Conversing with a professor of a university, in the beautiful and energetic city of Winnipeg, while a map of North America was opened before us, I put my compasses down, one foot on St. Paul, and left the other swinging above the chart. "Now," said I to my informant, "How far north must I carry this loose foot of the compass to reach the farthest border of your good wheat lands?" "You must carry it north," said he, "to the Peace River in Athabaska. On the banks of that stream, the buffalo and their young may be seen feeding on grass on the tenth of May." I opened the compasses until they reached the Peace River, some 1,500 miles northwest of St. Paul. I then swung the compasses around, and their northernmost point, when carried to the east, stood in the Atlantic Ocean, and when carried to the south it stood in the Gulf. Incredible as the assertion may appear, there is more arable land northwest of St. Paul than east of it, or south of it.

The American Consul at Winnipeg, the Hon. Mr. Taylor, told me that he is accustomed to divide North America into three belts—the cotton belt, the maize belt, and the wheat belt—and that, in his judgment, three-quarters of the wheat belt lies north of the international line. The sunlight endures two hours longer on a summer's day in Athabaska than in Ohio. Canadians are discussing, with not a little eagerness, the project of a new route to England through Hudson's Bay, from the mouth of the Nelson River, just north of Winnipeg. At least three months in every year ships may pass freely through the outlet of Hudson's Bay. The distance from the mouth of the Nelson to the mouth of the Mersey is two hundred miles shorter than that from the mouth of the Hudson to the mouth of the English stream. Sir Richard Temple had just been lecturing