

tained by various societies, and among them the Political Economy Club, which had invited a number of representative men to hear what was to be said in favour of adding yet another piece of mechanism to the complexities of the Imperial machine. Owing, perhaps, to time-honoured custom merely, or, possibly, to a conviction that the training and wisdom of universities were a factor in the working out of a problem in which many persons are more or less interested at the present juncture of Imperial history, the committee who drew up the list of toasts included the toast of the Universities. In either case, the subject of Imperialism cannot be seen in its full bearings if universities are left out of consideration.

It has been said that wherever the Englishman colonizes he builds a church, secures a cricket ground, and establishes a tavern — openly if the laws allow of it, and secretly if they do not. But it is equally true that wherever he colonizes he very soon begins to found universities. The most interesting and suggestive map of the Empire has not yet been printed. Military and naval maps with garrisons and dockyards and coaling stations marked upon them, and commercial maps with products and trade routes indicated in striking colour, are familiar, but no one has yet seen an academic map of the Empire with educational centres scattered all over it and distinguished according to their importance. Nobody expects to see universities figuring largely in discussions on Imperialism. And yet the part they play, while not ostentatious, is effective. If reciprocity of ideas and unrestrained freedom of intercourse are considered, they seem to occupy a more advanced position than any other of the causes which make for Imperial unity. Could their effect be formulated or rendered visible in its sum, it would arrest and surprise those who, if they think of it at all think of it as a negligible quantity. It was with wisdom indeed that Cecil Rhodes looked upon universities as unifying centres, and that he did not take a leap into the dark by establishing a fund through which able but poor colonial representatives might defray the expenses of journeying to an imperial parliament. His scheme, however, still demands a counterpart, its necessary counterpart, in fact. There is quite as much need to make English youth acquainted with colonial university life and colonial customs as to settle colonial youth for a time in English universities of ancient fame. Amid all the heated discussion of commercial difficulties that for the time seem to be insuperable obstacles to imperialism, it is refreshing to find that the universities of the Empire have been in council. On July 9th, 1903, an Allied Colonial Universities Conference held its first meeting at Burlington House in London. In the course of the address which opened the proceedings, the