

—Major Boulton is to be congratulated not only on having enhanced the picturesqueness of the Senate by his appearance in full uniform, but on having displayed a gallantry worthy of that uniform by presenting Imperial Federation for the first time in the form of a practical proposal. Hitherto it has floated before us as a nebulous entity, to which its devotees refused to give a definite shape; much less would they take a practical step of any kind, even when, as under Lord Beaconsfield, power was completely in their hands. But Major Boulton proposes to move in earnest. His plan is that Canada shall have representatives in both Houses of the British Parliament, with the privilege of voting on Canadian questions, and these alone. He is aware, no doubt, that this project is not new and that objections to it are already on record. Such a representation, it has been urged, while it would commit Canada to all Imperial entanglements and burdens would in reality be almost worthless. The representatives domiciled in England and brought under the political and social influence of the Imperial country would soon be more English than Canadian. Nor would it be possible to separate Canadian questions from the rest. The policy of every governing body must be an organic whole, the parts of which all more or less affect each other. A question about the boundary of British dominion in Africa or about the frontier of Afghanistan is not in itself Canadian; but it is Canadian if Canada would be drawn with Great Britain into the war. It is needless to enter into difficulties of detail, such as the awkwardness of the situation in which Canadian members of the Imperial Parliament would be placed if during their term the balance of parties should change here. Towards self-government, not towards centralization, the whole course of events has long been tending: that way points the genius of the race; and Major Boulton strives in vain to put back the shadow on the dial of history.