

given even a casual thought to these matters can have failed to observe that our influence is year by year becoming more and more potent in reference to matters of a less strictly local nature. Our right to be consulted as to matters of imperial moment is being more and more fully recognized. The most obvious and striking proof of this fact is the summing of the Imperial Conference last year. But on this subject the present leader of the Imperial House of Commons has said,—on the same day on which Mr. Mowat seconded the resolution by virtue of which the League has its existence—“We regard our colonial friends as Englishmen in the full and true intent of the word, and they are entitled and should obtain as complete a place in the management and in the control of the affairs of the Empire as we Englishmen claim in our own little island.” And again he said: “Let us at least assert the principle that unity is to be maintained, that some method shall be found, some course adopted, which shall give our colonists all the rights, and the interests, and the advantages which belong to resident Englishmen in Great Britain and Ireland.” This statement of Mr. Smith’s was received with cheers. And he emphatically added: “I believe it can be done.” That is the deliberately expressed opinion of that eminently practical statesman who at present leads the greatest legislative body in the world, that was the opinion of the late Mr. Forster, than whom no man in England was more prized for calm, clear-sighted sagacity; that was the opinion of Lord Shaftesbury; that is the opinion of Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, of Lord Carnarvon, of the present Secretary for the Colonies, of the present Prime Minister of England. I understand that to be the opinion of Mr. Chamberlain. That is the opinion of premiers and ex-premiers of colonies in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa; that is the opinion of scores and scores of the most eminent and practical statesmen of the Mother Country and the Empire over. And yet, as I have said once before, we are to be told by one or two anonymous writers, by half a dozen Yankee sympathizers, and forsooth by Professor Goldwin Smith, that the deliberately formed and openly expressed opinion of all these great, experienced and practical statesmen is mere childishness—a dream, a vision, a phantasy—something quite unworthy the consideration of sober-minded, sensible people.