

which are open to us. Once grant the desire to succeed, and the only difficulty will lie in choosing with proper judgment the most important out of the many roads which will lead us to success.

VI.—A SUMMARY.

A Tribute to the Federation League.

The Imperial Conference has concluded its sittings, and several of its members have already returned to their respective Colonies. It is not possible to review the precise details of the work which has been accomplished, for the proceedings have throughout been conducted in private. Enough, however, has been communicated to the public by the indiscretion of some person who was present during the meetings to give a fair general idea of the nature of the business undertaken, and of the spirit in which the various questions were approached. It is satisfactory to learn that, both as regards form and matter, the proceedings of the Conference were conducted in the strictest conformity with the principles which in these articles have been laid down as being calculated to ensure real and permanent success. There has been no attempt to create new and fictitious bonds of union between various portions of the Empire; the delegates have wisely recognised the fact that in organising and utilising the material which already existed, there was ample work ready to their hands.

The Defence Question.

The Defence question seems to have made real progress. This, indeed, was inevitable as soon as any responsible body was really brought face to face with the facts, and was prepared to co-operate towards achieving the desired end. The work of properly utilising the defensive resources of the Empire has undoubtedly received a great stimulus, but it will not do to allow our officials to go to sleep again. It is a good thing to be agreed as to what is best to be done, but it is better still to do it. It will be necessary to keep a careful watch upon the naval and military authorities, and the public must show itself both alert and distrustful. The Cape, King George's Sound,