

her Colonies, by means of which a discrimination in the exchange of natural and manufactured products will be made in favor of one another, and against foreign nations; and that our friends in Parliament are hereby called upon to move in support of the policy of this resolution at the earliest possible moment."

This principle has also been formulated by the Privy Council of Canada, which long ago declared "that trade should be as free as practicable between the various portions of the Empire, having regard solely to their own interests, and undeterred by any obligation to treat others with equal favor."

When the resolution of the League in Canada was adopted in March, 1888, most of its members were then probably unaware that neither the English nor the Canadian Parliament was at liberty to put such a policy into practice. They did not know that treaties between England and certain foreign countries were in existence, which expressly precluded preferential fiscal treatment of British goods by the Colonies and dependencies of the British Crown. A return presented to the House of Lords in June, 1888, contains precise information on the subject and has no doubt awakened in many minds astonishment and anger. The treaties with Belgium and the German Zollverein stipulate that the produce of these countries shall not be subject to any higher or other duties than the produce of the United Kingdom, and, while those treaties are in force this express provision is extended to all countries where commercial treaties with Great Britain contain a most-favored-nation clause, and apply to British Colonies. It is useless to point out by what infatuation the Imperial Government was induced to consent to such stipulations. It is enough to know that the treaties may be put an end to after twelve months' notice, and that there is some prospect of their being abrogated. Mr. Howard Vincent, who has brought up the matter in the House of Commons several times, was able, on the 16th June, 1890, to obtain the assurance from the Government that "no doubt this important matter will be considered when new commercial treaties are about to be concluded with foreign states."

So far as the present writer is concerned he would, as an incidental protectionist, rejoice if satisfactory modifications of the existing tariffs throughout the Empire could be arranged. But it would appear to be too much to expect this, for the following reasons: 1—The interests concerned are too varied, involved and conflicting to admit of satisfactory compromise in the framing of such reciprocal tariffs. 2—Such attempts would be regarded by very many as preliminary to the establishment of a system of artificial encouragement to particular manufactures; in short, as a return to protection. 3—Even if successful, this system of Imperial reciprocity, as it has been called, would only influence local industries and benefit English or Colonial finances, but would not provide any revenue for Imperial purposes, without which a strong, united Empire is impossible. 4—Such a proposal, whether made by the Mother Country or a colony, might reasonably be characterized as more or less selfish in its nature, and intended chiefly for the material benefit of its originator. These objections do not apply to the Hofmeyr scheme, which is simple and unselfish, entirely free from protectionist bias, and capable of producing an Imperial revenue.

In truth the plan brought forward by Mr. Hofmeyr only gives more precise expression to an idea which has already gained favor in South Africa, Australia and Canada, and although its primary object is to obtain a revenue for Imperial purposes, it would have the effect also of favouring Inter-British trade. It would, in fact, establish an Imperial commercial union. The tariff arrangements of the United Kingdom, of the self-governing colonies, of India and of all the British dependencies, would remain, as at present, subject to the various authorities who now control them, save and except that an additional duty would be levied upon all foreign goods, but not upon British productions. Not only is it the only system which could be adopted throughout the British Empire without interfering with any of the tariff systems established by either Mother Country or colonies, but it is the only practicable system which would lend uniformity to the British possessions in the eyes of foreign traders. On entering a British port they would first have to pay the Imperial duty on all their goods, and then such other duty as the local tariff called for. No other suggestion provides so readily a common fund for the purposes of the Empire. If its various colonies agree to contribute

towards its defence it is surely most reasonable to insist upon their being put on a better footing than foreign nations in their intercourse with each other and with the Mother Country. This is a point which might be conceded very gracefully by England, if not for her own advantage, then out of consideration for the welfare of the Empire. The only plan by which England can hope to obtain Canada's consent to contribute substantially towards Imperial Defence, is by giving her, as well as the rest of the Empire, a preference in English markets.

Such a policy could be carried out by all the members of the Empire, without the slightest inconvenience, because it produces everything which civilization requires. Gortschakoff is reported to have said that "Russia and America are the only nations whose grand internal life is sufficient for them." What these countries would do without English markets is not very evident, but if they are capable of standing apart in lofty isolation and independence, the same position could safely be assumed by the British Empire if her statesmen were guided by no higher considerations than are dictated by a policy of national selfishness. In one of the publications of the Imperial Federation League there occurs this passage: "The mutual trade between the possessions of the British people embraces every single article required for food, clothing, education, commerce, manufacture or agriculture, and for all the pursuits, avocations and pleasures of every class of the people; and is capable of such limitless expansion, by reason of the diversities of climates and geological conditions, as to make the British Empire—with a due commercial understanding between its local governments—absolutely independent of the productions of every other country in the world."

One great advantage of this proposal for the establishment of British Commercial union is, that it could be put in practice without waiting for the federation of the Australian or any other group of colonies, and entirely independent of the discussion or adoption of any scheme for consolidating the Empire politically. A simple application of the British Government to the Colonial authorities, or vice versa, and a second Colonial Conference to talk over the details, might readily lead to the desired result of simultaneously establishing British Commercial Union and providing an Imperial revenue. No doubt the colonies would have to be consulted as regards the disbursements for Imperial purposes, but this might take place through their agents general until, in course of time, an Imperial Senate and Ministry could be developed and organized to deliberate and act in such matters.

It has become quite customary of late for federationists and men of some standing in England to declare that any step in this direction must first be taken by the colonies. But it is difficult to imagine that England would thus consent to give up the hegemony of the British Empire, and wait until urged to action by her colonies. It is, besides, very doubtful whether in all such cases the colonial tail would be able to wag the English dog. There seems, however, to be no good reason why the colonies should not exert themselves to advance the cause of closer union at the same time as the Mother Country. In the case of Canada the same means might be taken for inducing closer commercial union with Great Britain, which have been adopted in the case of the United States and Spain. At this moment there exist on our statute book standing offers to these countries to modify our import duties in return for like action on their part. Similar offers to Great Britain and other parts of the Empire would be much more in order, and are just at present more loudly called for. It would seem reasonable and dutiful if our Dominion Parliament would enact an additional section to the "Act to alter the Duties of Customs and Excise," somewhat in the following terms: "Five per cent. *ad valorem* may be levied upon all goods imported into Canada from foreign countries, if such are free of duty, and five per cent. *ad valorem*, in addition to the duties imposed by this Act, may be levied upon all dutiable foreign goods, upon proclamation by the Governor-in-Council, which may be issued whenever it appears to his satisfaction, that the Government of the United Kingdom or of any of its colonies or dependencies has imposed or agreed to impose on all its importations from foreign countries, whether previously free or dutiable, an additional duty of five per cent. *ad valorem*, over and above the duties imposed upon importations from British possessions—the proceeds of such duties to form a fund for the

naval defence of the Empire."

It is just possible that England would not stand unmoved if such action were taken by Canada. It is scarcely to be imagined that that old Mother Land, which, since the time she first gave birth to new communities in other quarters of the world, has shewn so well how she could spend and be spent in nursing them up to maturity, would remain deaf to the appeal of the eldest of her children. There is good reason for believing that there exists in Great Britain at present a sensitiveness to colonial wishes. Both political parties are ready to do anything in reason that the colonies want, if those wants are expressed with sufficient energy. If we want commercial union with England and the rest of the Empire, the quickest way to get it may be, not to try by solitary effort to educate the British public up to it, but to propose it. The voice of a single speaker or writer is heard but very faintly in the crowded arena at home, but the voice of Canada, speaking by her Parliament, the sound of her knocking at the gate might start an echo from Cornwall to Caithness, startle the British Islands from their present condition of indifference to the agricultural and industrial interests of the Empire, and be listened to as never before.

THE WRECK OF THE BIRKENHEAD

By Bro. Hereward K. Cockin, Author of "Gentleman Dick o' the Greys."

The Birkenhead was a troop-ship sent out by the English Government with drafts of troops to supply the losses which had occurred in various regiments on active service on the first Caffre war. Algoa bay was her destination. Within two days of harbor, the vessel at midnight struck a sunken rock. There were 632 souls on board, 50 of whom were women and children. Only three boats, capable of holding 70 people, were available. Colonel Seton, who was in command, gave the word for the women and children to be saved. They were saved. Seton with his men with one ringing cheer went down with the sinking ship. A small proportion reached safety; the majority were drowned or seized by the numerous sharks that surrounded the doomed vessel.

Athenians! laud your Marathon,—
Spartans! Thermopylae.
Ye seven hills! by Tiber's bridge, sing
of your deathless Three.
Ye lonely Alpine shepherds! sound the
horn of Uri still
O'er dark Morgarten's fatal pass, o'er
Sempach's glorious hill;
And Orient! boast thy countless tombs,
where sleep the valiant dead
Whose stout lives saw the Moslem
crush'd beneath their mail-clad
tread;
And mine to tell how valour won a
fadeless high renown
When Manhood knelt at Duty's shrine,
when the Birkenhead went down.

Forget not, O my countrymen! the
noble deed they did.
"The women and the children first."
Forget it? God forbid!
Easy to die a soldier's death 'midst the
embalming host.
But here was death in silence met, each
soldier at his post.
Not 'midst the gladsome beams of day,
nor evening's mellow'd light.
But face to face with Horror, in the
fearsome gloom of night.
O, steadfast hearts, unsewn of all, save
the Omniscent Eye.
Your faithful valour show'd the world
how England's heroes die.

The good ship nears Algoa's bay—her
voyage all but done:
Faded the perils of the past—the haven
all but won:
Aloft, with straining vision, stands the
look-out's sentinel.
Whilst to the watch's challenge comes
his answering cry, "All's well."
Below, 'midst jest and merriment, the
listener's blood is stirr'd.

When, at his comrades' lusty call, the
veteran's tale is heard:
How he had join'd the service when a
beardless country lad,
And with the gallant Thirteenth
storm'd and held Jellalabad.

God! 'tis a gruesome thing to hear the
Great Destroyer's voice,
When song and jest and merriment bid
human hearts rejoice:
'E'en as he speaks a sudden crash! a
soul appalling shock!
Tells but too well the stout ship's doom
—pierc'd by a hidden rock.
"Reverse the engines," Salmon's words.
Oh, fatal error here.
The piercing mass, thus shaken off,
leaves but an opening clear
For the vast hell of seething foam that
pours in volum'd tide,
Its hoarse Niagara through the rent
made in the vessel's side.

Christ! speed the hurrying feet that
strive to reach the upper air;
Jesus! the hopeless horror of a drown-
woman's prayer.

Here is the King of Terrors—here the
carnival of Death;
See, see your eyeball's anguish'd glare,
that marks the stifled breath;
Strangled the sailor at his post, the
soldier in his berth.

Strangled the sleeper in his sleep, and
the jester in his mirth;
Only the arm of God can save from
such appalling woe;

A sinking ship, a sullen sky, and the
ravaging sharks below!

The lifeboat's swamp'd, "Three boats
but left." Then gallant Seton's
cry,

"The women and the children first."
(Britons know how to die.)

No coward answer shames his words—
nor plaint nor murmur's made

By England's noble hero hearts.
Steady as on parade

They see the crowded boats go forth
into the outer gloom.

Steady, as if at Aldershot, they face
their awful doom;

And such a fate—no trumpet blast, nor
Battle's generous glow:

A sinking ship, a sullen sky, and the
ravaging maws below!

O leal hearts! O wondrous discipline!
Immortal wreck!

Shoulder to shoulder, under arms, they
throng that fatal deck.

Mark'd on each brow is Valor's seal, and
sternly pale each face,

That will not look on Life's sweet smiles
when living is disgrace.

Calmly they stand, in silence, as their
colonel's voice is heard.

And to that awful silence comes their
colonel's parting word,

"A soldier's back knows but one foe—
Dishonor—the only one;

Men! we can only die here!"—and the
colonel's speech is done.

Never again shall they behold or tread
their native shore;

The hearts that knew and loved them
once shall know them nevermore.

Farewell to sweetheart, home and
friends, to each remember'd scene,
The ivied church, the Sabbath bells, and
the dear old village green.

No more, for them, the ruddy hearth
shall sing its cherry rhyme;

No more, for them, the rustic porch in
the pleasant summer time;

No more the upland meadows, where
the shadows come and go:

A sinking ship, a sullen sky, and the
ravaging sharks below!

Ah! the mainmast rent in twain; her
funnel o'er her side;

High in the air her bowsprit turns; her
stern is 'neath the tide,

One horrid lurch, a swirl of waters, and
the ship is gone.

Now, now the desperate struggle where
eternity is won.

Drawn down, sucked into the abyss, ten
score sleep their last sleep.

Whilst stifled screams from others tell
of monsters of the deep.

Horror on horror meets me here, and
pen and language fail,

Where only one in six survive to tell
the glorious tale.

Athenians! laud your Marathon!
Spartans! Thermopylae!

Ye seven hills! by Tiber's bridge, sing
of the deathless Three;

Ye lonely Alpine shepherds! sound the
horn of Uri still

O'er dark Morgarten's fatal pass, o'er
Sempach's glorious hill;

And Orient! boast thy countless
tombs, where sleep the valiant
dead

Whose stout lives saw the Moslem
crush'd beneath their mail-clad
tread;

And mine to tell how valor won a fade-
less high renown,

When Manhood knelt at Duty's shrine
—when the Birkenhead went down.

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striking the stone floor. He then be-
came insensible, and apparently Muley
Thami and his men, thinking him
seriously injured, abandoned the idea
of further outrage, and fled to another
part of the house. Mr. Harris recovered
consciousness at 2 a.m. on Christmas
morning, and escaping from the place,
made his way to the house of Muley
Elarbi, the eldest of the Sherifs, with
whom he was staying.

He roused the Sherif Muley Elarbi
and some men, and early that morning
Muley Thami was arrested. Mr. Harris
escaped with no injuries beyond some
bruises. On the arrest of Muley Thami
Mr. Harris demanded that he should at
once be publically flogged, and the
elder brothers, Muleys Elarbi and Ma-
homet, at once agreed to this, and in
the presence of Mr. Harris, the Sherifs,
and all the Court and slaves, his High-
ness received 140 lashes with knotted
ropes. Mr. Harris then insisted on his
being thrown into irons and sent to
prison. This was immediately done.
The slaves and attendants who had
assisted in the assault were in hiding,
but several have been caught. Mr.
Harris sent criers through the town to
call the people together, and the men
were flogged before hundreds of the
townspeople, Mr. Harris himself strik-
ing the first blow to each.

In spite of the fact that Wazen is one
of the most fanatical towns in Morocco,
and that the Sherifian family is the
most holy, not only in Morocco, but in
all North Africa, and that Mr. Harris
is the sole European within sixty miles
of Wazan, public feeling is entirely on
his side, and he has received the great-
est kindness and sympathy from every
one, Moors and Arabs alike being most
indignant at the outrage of hospitality.
The prompt action of the elder brothers
of Muley Thami in their painful posi-
tion is most praiseworthy.

Mr. Harris remains in Wazen until
he has arranged with the Sherif's father,
the Great Sherif, who resides in Tan-
gier, as to what punishment Muley
Thami is to receive. Should he con-
sider the sentence passed by the Great
Sherif not sufficiently severe he will at
once put the case into the hands of the
British authorities in Tangier.

Muley Thami is a man of some 24
years of age. He speaks French
fluently, having been for some years
in the French native army in Algeria.
There was absolutely no reason for the
outrage. Mr. Harris was on good
terms with Muley Thami and there
had never been any quarrel between
them. His Highness is known for his
cruelty, and it was probably in a fit of
passion that he perpetrated this out-
rage on a British subject.

LATER.

The attendants of Muley Thami, who
perpetrated the assault upon Mr.
Harris, have taken refuge in the
mosque of Wazan. A guard is sta-
tioned outside to catch them should
they leave the mosque. One man left
the sanctuary to try to escape from the
town in the night, but was caught by
one of the guards. A struggle ensued
in which the refugee was shot through
the neck. He escaped back to the
sanctuary, where he now lies in a pre-
carious condition.