

them by a policy for which the circumstances have not yet occurred. It may be well, even so, that all these matters should be sometimes discussed; and there can be at least no harm in the endeavour to familiarise ourselves with the notion of a vast united Empire, in which the remote dependencies in the far-off East and West will find a place, and of which the old country will be the centre and the common link of union. For some time yet it can only be a dream, but it is a dream which we are the better for indulging in, and the day in which it will be fulfilled literally may be nearer than any of us suppose. It is something meanwhile to be assured that events are at any rate proceeding in the right direction. Whatever may be our relations with our Australian Colonies fifty or a hundred years hence, we cannot be wrong now in keeping up a loyal union between all the distant members of the Greater Britain that is to be. There can be no possibility of error in such a policy as this. It is quite possible that Sir George Bowen and our other Colonial Governors may be preparing the way for the grandest Federation of States the world has witnessed, but we are sure anyhow that their present services are useful, and we observe with pleasure that they are recognised, as they deserve, as often as the occasion presents itself.

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