

the Empire at large. Nor would it be difficult to suppose sundry causes to hasten the crisis in such a decision. A long European war, for instance, entailing a demand for funds and troops from the colonies, might raise again that very old subject of taxation without representation; or the veto of some colonial governor upon a pet scheme of the colonies, such as a commercial reciprocity treaty with another nation, might awaken doubts as to the advisability of a free people being dictated to by an alien parliament; or again, there might be an aggravated case of gratuitous insult to English colonists, like the haughty refusal of the English Government to allow the patriotic Australians to fly the Union Jack on the ships of their navy.

Those people, therefore, who are in favour of the continuance of a real unity of the Empire, should exert themselves in devising ways and means of binding together its scattered parts in lasting bonds. And, under the present condition of good feeling and harmony, such a consummation would seem possible with the least amount of friction. Canada in particular should be eager to attach herself to the mother country, or one of these days she may find the interests and inclinations of her people ready to be combined with those of her flourishing neighbor. The careful article by Mr. Pirie, referred to above, points out a considerable tendency in that direction, and Prof. Goldwin Smith, who is by no means lacking in mental acumen, has always consistently maintained the value of such a policy. Perhaps more emphatic signs of the drift of public feeling, are afforded by the regular migration of enterprising Canadians across the line, which, I fear, are not decreasing in number or extent. And beside office clerks and other needy individuals in quest of the almighty dollar, other people occasionally leave us whom we can ill afford to lose. As a case in point might be mentioned the late departure of three Trinity men in Holy Orders—could they not find work to do in their own country? Again our labour organizations are affiliated with their American brethren and identity of interest may easily arouse more sympathetic feelings. There are some very fair reasons then, why Canadians should take up the question of Imperial Federation, and do what they can to help on the good work which is being done elsewhere. For though our worthy Premier is of opinion that no "practical result" can follow from any discussion on the subject, a good many Englishmen in different quarters of the globe have become convinced of the pressing need for a satisfactory solution of the difficulty. To take England first, upwards of 70 members of the House of Commons are on the Committee of the Imperial Federation League. This society already numbers many enthusiastic and influential members in its ranks, and has especially met with a favourable reception throughout Conservative England.

Mr. Chamberlain, too, in his speech on the Irish Home Rule Bill referred favourably to some large scheme of Imperial Federation.

It must be confessed that the ordinary Englishman

generally has rather hazy ideas about any definite scheme for Federation, or the probable results of such a policy. The common-place Tory is always taken with a grand conception of "maintaining the Integrity of the Empire." And he has now for the most part come to the conclusion that a Colonist is after all "a man and a brother," and therefore that there is no insuperable reason why he should not be represented in the National Assembly.

But when it is pointed out that although at the present time the population of the Colonies is much less than that of Great Britain, there is every probability to believe that in a century or two the once-despised Colonists will constitute by far the largest proportion of the nation. In that case under an equitable system of representation, the Colonial influence in the Imperial Parliament would pre-nominate. Now though the British Islander has no cause to suppose that a Canadian or Australian would be any less concerned for the general interests of the Empire than himself, yet many of them can not help thinking that it would be rather derogatory for England if "her own" Colonists had an important share in her government. But I fancy such good people may be prevailed on to see things in their proper light, for they really mean well to the race. And certainly, on the face of it, there is no valid reason why a free-born Colonist should labour under a sort of political disability with regard to the higher affairs of the nation, as compared with his fellow-subject in old England.

In New Zealand the intention of the Imperial Federation League has been well received. The House of Representatives has favourably noticed it, and has even voted a number of resolutions worded by the League itself. Some Canadians, at all events, are moving in the matter, and branches of the League have already been established. Distinguished men in Queensland and South Australia have joined. There are two branches in South Africa, and it is fairly represented in Singapore, Hong Kong, Barbadoes, and Gibraltar.

What remains, then, to be done? To cultivate a strong public feeling in favour of Imperial Federation both in England and, especially, in the Colonies. Until the Colonists speak with no uncertain voice on this subject, the bulk of English politicians will probably be content to let things go their own gait, and will rather occupy themselves with more private interests. At least, every citizen should know what meaning, and what splendid auguries of future prosperity, are contained in the phrase, Imperial Federation.

BOHEMIAN.

A circular issued by the Chancellor, together with a note from the Provost, was sent to all the graduates requesting their attendance at a meeting to be held on May 20th for the purpose of taking steps to place Convocation on a practical basis. Owing to certain unforeseen circumstances this meeting was postponed. We hope, however, that it will be held, and this much-needed step taken.