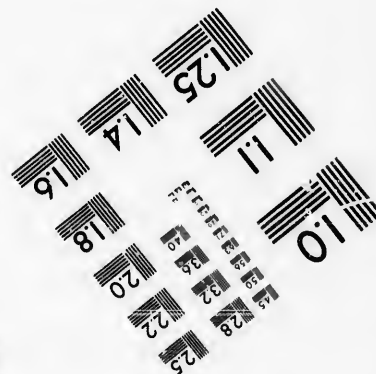
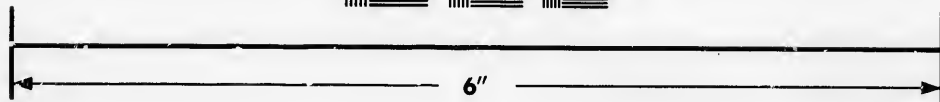
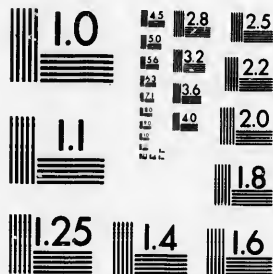


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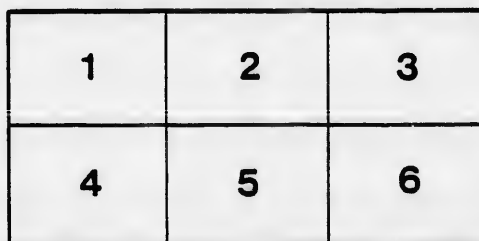
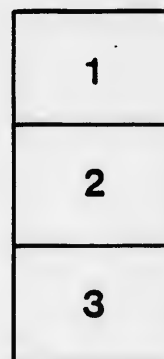
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Vol. 150

THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

PROPOSED INSTITUTION

OF

A JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATURES
AND GOVERNMENTS

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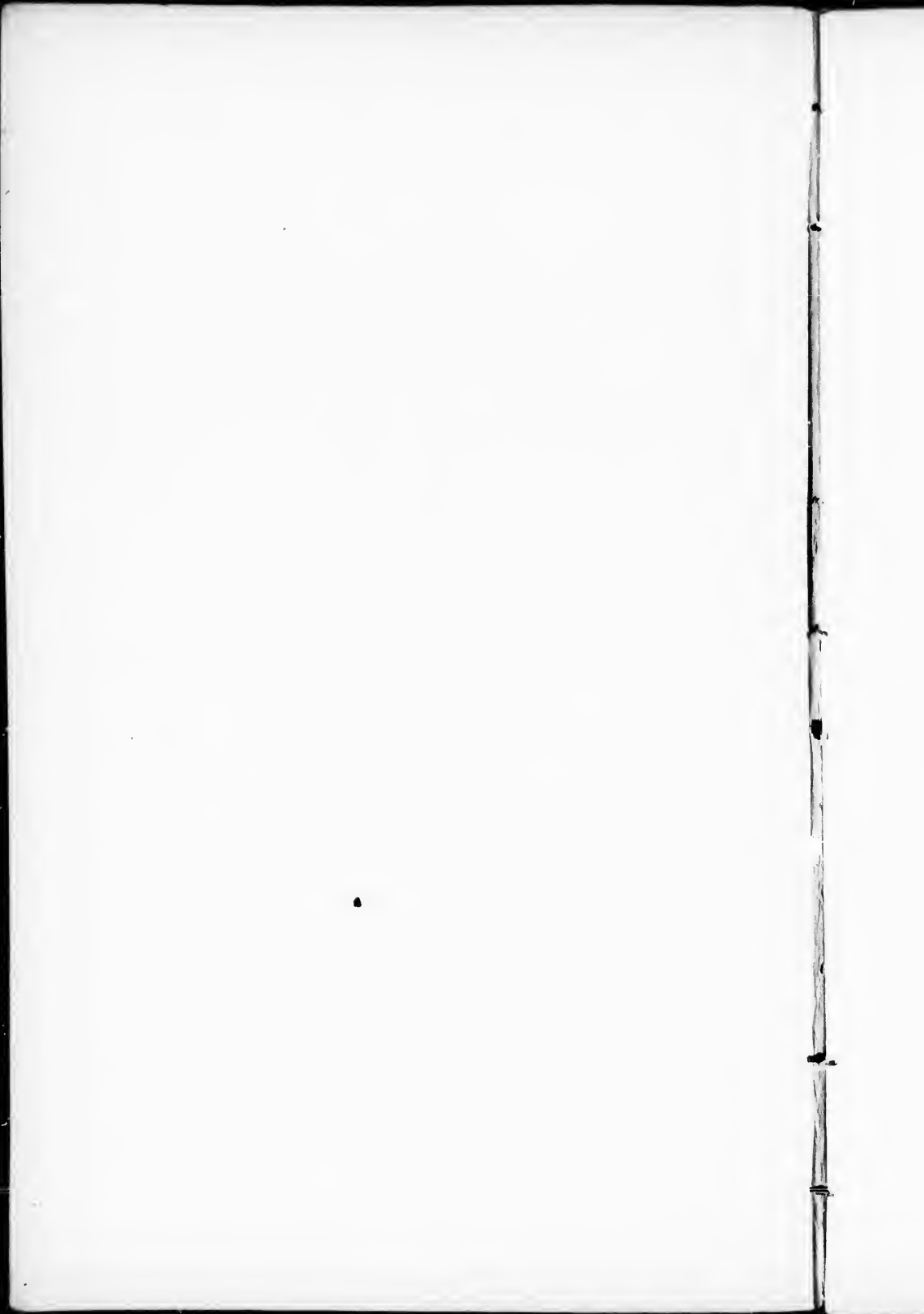
THE EMPIRE,

HAVING

PERIODICAL MEETINGS IN GREAT BRITAIN.

LONDON:
TRÜBNER & CO., PATERNOSTOR ROW.
1869.

Price One Shilling.



THE RIGHT HONORABLE

W. E. GLADSTONE.

SIR—It is now eleven years since the annexed proposition, in principle and in the leading details, was, after it had undergone long and most careful consideration, first published in the form of a pamphlet. It was then submitted to the late Sir JAMES STEPHEN—than whom no man was better qualified to judge of its merits—and he not only gave it his entire approbation, but expressed his willingness to do every thing in his power to realise it. It also received the cordial approbation of the late Mr HALIBURTON, M.P.—himself a colonist—and of other eminent men in high political positions.

The proposition, carefully revised, and, it is thought, considerably improved on various points, is now republished. Recent events in relation to the Colonies seem to make such republication desirable. There can be no doubt that the connection of the mother country with the other parts of the Empire is generally felt to be on a most unsatisfactory footing, and there is a wide-spread desire for a closer union between them, if a proper basis can be devised.

The immediate cause of the former publication of the proposition was the rebellion in India, to which reference was made in the pamphlet once or twice, in order to enforce the argument. That rebellion was overcome after much slaughter and great expense. But, as a similar rebellion may sooner or later again occur, unless completely effective steps be taken to prevent it,

it has not been deemed expedient to expunge these references in the present edition, for it is thought they still serve to give point and force to the statements now to be submitted.

Much has been said by politicians and others about the nature of the connection that ought to subsist between the mother country and the Colonies. One extreme party seemed to maintain that the Colonies ought to be at once and entirely thrown off to shift for themselves, so soon as they were able to do so. Another extreme party seemed inclined to retain them in a constant state of pupillage and dependence on the mother country. There can, however, be little room for doubt that, as usual in almost every case where extreme views are held, the middle course is best. The mother country ought to act towards the Colonies just as a kind, sensible father acts towards his children. When children are young, they require the paternal support, care, and protection. When grown up, they support and protect themselves. Nevertheless, the father still rejoices in their prosperity—still gives them his best counsel and advice—still does them all the good he can, and aids them in every way that may lie in his power—is delighted to see them often in the paternal home, there to have family reunions and intercommunion—to hear all about their troubles and difficulties, their welfare and prosperity—what they have done and what they intend to do. The children reciprocate these feelings and desires. All this is highly beneficial in its nature and effects. And precisely the same sort of feelings and desires ought to animate the mother country towards the Colonies; and the Colonies, if so treated, will reciprocate with every kind of right feeling towards the mother country. Can there possibly be any doubt of the entire expediency, desirability, and advantage to all concerned of such a course?

To give effect to these views is essentially the aim of the proposition contained in the annexed pages. And it humbly appears to me, and I therefore beg leave most respectfully to represent to you, in your high position as the head of Her Majesty's Ministry, that you could not engage in a work more profitable to your Queen, your fellow-subjects in all parts of the Empire, and to mankind at large—one more Christianising or civilising—than in that of realising the proposition now submitted for your consideration and that of the public. To lead the human race to take kind and comprehensive views of each other is the best, if it be not the sole, way to exalt them in the scale of humanity; and nothing could be better calculated to gain this end than to have men deputed from our Colonies and Dependencies in every quarter of the globe to come and hold brotherly communion with ourselves in Britain. You have already aided in accomplishing several great and arduous works—some of which were sometimes more easily accomplished than it was originally expected they would be—but none will better repay your labour—none will be looked back upon by future generations with greater pleasure—none will, it is believed, be more easily accomplished when once it is begun—than the establishment of a Joint Committee of the legislatures and governments of the different parts of the British Empire, for the promotion of the common welfare by moral and intellectual means purely and simply, having no legislative or taxative power over the Empire or any of its parts—all as now proposed.

That the existence of such a body, instituted under proper regulations, would be of the most material benefit to Great Britain, the Colonies, and the Dependencies, is, it is thought, a matter so very clear that no lengthened statement or elaborate arguments could make it any clearer. From its proposed con-

stitution—from the mild, elevated, and uncontaminating sphere of its action—it would, it is believed, have, among its other benefits, a most powerful tendency to take away narrowness, harshness, selfishness, and meanness of spirit, from all legislative and governmental action throughout the Empire; and, this being the case, its influence would not be confined to the Empire alone—it would exercise a most benign effect on the whole world.

The kind of body now proposed is, it is believed, exactly adapted to the requirements of the Empire in the present day, whatever else may be the case at some future period. To have proposed a really imperial legislature—that is, a body formed of members elected by the communities of the different parts of the Empire, and having legislative and taxative powers—would be found to be attended with the most insuperable difficulties in every respect, and would, it is believed, not be listened to for a moment by any of the communities in consequence of its impracticability. But while the proposed Joint Committee will, on the one hand, confer all the benefits which it may be supposed by some would flow from such a legislative body, it will not, on the other hand, be attended with any of its numerous and insuperable difficulties, nor indeed with any difficulties at all, as will appear from the details of the proposition now to be submitted.

It may perhaps, however, be asserted that, notwithstanding all that has been said, there might be members of the Joint Committee who would manifest such a narrow and intolerant spirit—such a spirit of jealousy, contention, and strife—as possibly to make the Committee less productive of good than might be desirable. All bodies of men are of course liable to this objection; but, if such individuals did occasionally get into the Committee, they would never again find themselves in a less con-

genial sphere. For, as the great causes of intolerance, strife, and contention are selfish ambition, pride, and self-conceit, these wretched sentiments would, in a body constituted like the proposed Joint Committee—having no patronage, and no pecuniary or legislative power—with sittings comparatively short and not very frequent—have no scope for action; and as those animated by such sentiments would have no objects presented by or through the Committee which they would appreciate, or for which they would care, they would have no desire to be elected into its membership. Besides, the legislatures and governments would take good care that such unqualified men should not be elected. It may hence be most reasonably assumed that only the best men of the empire—the most disinterested—the most benevolent—the most intellectual—would be chosen as the members of the Joint Committee; and can there be the slightest doubt that the acts of such men must result in the promotion of the welfare of all interested, and in making the Joint Committee a blessing to the various communities of the Empire and to the world?

The mootings in the communities and legislatures of the proposed institution of the Joint Committee would in itself have a most wholesome and enlarging effect. Individuals and communities are, if not exclusively, at least far too much, taken up with what is selfish or sectional, out of which results great good, and at the same time great evil. To increase the good and to diminish the evil, they ought to be induced, by every judicious and proper means, to take unselfish, unsectional, expanded views. Could any better practical means be devised to attain this end than that of the institution of the Joint Committee? Once realised, it would be found to be a source of constant blessing, not merely through the great material benefits that

would result from it, but also from the enlarged views, the brotherly spirit, it would so strongly tend to induce in those subject to its influence. As, however, the institution of the Joint Committee would not gratify the selfish or peculiar objects of any class, sect, or party, now in Britain or the Empire, it is scarcely to be expected that any class, sect, or party, will demand its institution. But, in a matter like this, where the common weal of all in the Empire is to be so clearly promoted, it is the undoubted duty of the members of its various governments and legislatures themselves to take the initiative, and to lead the way in the institution of the Committee.

Convinced of the great benefits that would flow from the establishment of the Joint Committee, I must believe that the day is rapidly approaching when it will form one of the institutions of the Empire; and this most desirable result will be all the more speedily attained should you and your colleagues in the Ministry see it to be your duty to bring about its establishment. The work of destruction, permit me to remark, is sometimes necessary, but the work of construction is the more noble. And most respectfully referring you to the annexed pages, where the constitution of the proposed Joint Committee will be found to be wrought out in considerable and, it is believed, workable detail, I beg leave, with all deference and humility, to leave the matter in the hands of you and your colleagues, and also in the hands of the imperial and local legislatures and governments of the Empire, and in those of the various communities whose welfare and interests are so greatly involved. I have the honor to be, Sir, your most humble Servant,

HENRY KILGOUR.

Edinburgh, 6th September 1869.

PROPOSED INSTITUTION
OF
A JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATURES
AND GOVERNMENTS
OF
THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

How is India to be governed? was, eleven years ago, the great question of the day, occasioned by the formidable, truly deplorable, and most expensive rebellion, which had then broken out against our rule in that country. The importance of a right answer to this question was, and is, not to be over-estimated, whether we regard our own honor, our Christianity, our justice, patriotism, and liberality, on the one hand, or the welfare of no fewer than one hundred and eighty millions of human beings, on the other.

But the proposition we then and now beg to submit, as a chief element in the right solution of the question, is not confined to that subject alone, vast as it is; it also includes the higher and much more extensive object of promoting the unity and prosperity of the whole British Empire, of which the parts are, physically, so widely severed, and, politically, so very loosely connected. It is our clearest duty and highest interest to knit its inhabitants more and more closely together, by taking the most effective steps for their recognition of the unity of the Empire, and for the growth and diffusion amongst them of mutual knowledge, mutual justice, and mutual love, and for giving the fullest effect, in practice, to these sentiments. This would have a much stronger influence in binding together the British Empire, and in unifying it, than would the most absolute decrees of an Emperor, or ukases of a Czar, backed by the most powerful armies. And in order that the proposition now to be submitted for the

attainment of these most desirable objects may be exhibited in the most practical light, it has been thrown into the shape of an Act of Parliament; but it need scarcely be said that each and all of the details are subject to every modification and addition which may be shewn to be expedient.

WHEREAS the institution of a Joint Committee of the Legislatures and Governments of the various parts of the British Empire, in the manner and for the objects after specified, would greatly tend to unite, consolidate, and strengthen the Empire, and promote its welfare and prosperity, BE IT ENACTED, &c.,

1. That a Joint Committee of the legislatures and governments of the various parts of the Empire shall be nominated and convoked, and shall assemble, in the manner and for the purposes after specified.

2. That the members of the Joint Committee to be nominated by the Imperial Parliament shall be appointed by her Majesty, the House of Lords, and the House of Commons, in the numbers and proportions specified in the Schedule hereunto annexed; and the members to be nominated by the local legislatures of the Colonies and Dependencies shall be appointed by her Majesty through the governors, and by the other divisions of such legislatures, in the numbers and proportions specified in such Schedule; and the members from the Colonies and Dependencies without local legislatures shall be appointed by her Majesty and the local governments, in the manner, numbers, and proportions specified in such Schedule; and, in the last case, it is recommended that such members shall be composed of natives of the united kingdom, or their descendants, and of natives of such Colonies and Dependencies, in the ratios specified in such Schedule; but any departure from such ratios shall not nullify the nomination of any member or members.

3. That the members of the Joint Committee to be nominated by the legislatures may or may not be members of such

legislatures; and it is declared that it is highly expedient, as a general rule, that the members from the Colonies and Dependencies shall have been resident therein respectively for [three] years prior to their nomination; but any deviation from this rule shall not nullify the nomination of any member or members.

4. That her Majesty shall appoint the Joint Committee to assemble in the Palace of Parliament, in the City of Westminster, or other suitable place in Great Britain, at a specified time, in the year [187-], and shall thereafter convoke the same [biennially], or oftener if occasion shall require; and, on every occasion when the Joint Committee is so to be convoked, her Majesty shall command a proclamation and convocation thereof to be published in the *London Gazette*, and shall appoint her portion of the members for nomination by the Imperial Parliament, and shall command intimation to be made to the House of Lords, and to the House of Commons, to appoint their portion of such members; and shall also command writs to be issued to the governors of the Colonies and Dependencies to take the requisite steps for the nomination by the local legislatures of the members falling to be nominated by them, and shall, through the governors thereof, appoint her portion of such members; and shall also command writs to be issued nominating the members from the Colonies and Dependencies without local legislatures; and the power of dissolving the Joint Committee shall be vested in her Majesty; and her Majesty shall, on each occasion of the assembling and dissolving of the Joint Committee, open and dissolve the same in person, or by commission.

5. That, for the purpose of defraying the travelling and other expenses of the members from the Colonies and Dependencies, the Imperial Parliament shall make such allowances as it shall think fit to the members from those places, for payment of which the revenues of the United Kingdom, or those of the Colonies and Dependencies directly under its control, shall be responsible; and the local legislatures shall make such allowances as they shall think fit to the members nominated by them; and the Supreme Council of India shall make such allowance as it shall

think fit to the members from India, to be paid from the revenues of India; but these allowances shall not, in any case whatever, exceed the sum of [£300]; and no allowance shall be made to any member nominated by the Imperial Parliament.

6. That the paramount power and authority of the Imperial Parliament, and the power and authority of the local legislatures, shall remain whole and entire, in every respect, as these now exist; and the Joint Committee shall not have any legislative or taxative power over the Empire, or any part thereof.

7. That the Joint Committee is established in order that there may be a solemn, express, authoritative, and frequently-recurring recognition, throughout the Empire, of its common monarchy, and of the brotherhood and unity of interests of its inhabitants, and for the strengthening of these sentiments and promotion of these interests; and its chief duty, function, and action shall be in accordance with, and for the carrying out of, these objects; and particularly in evincing, by all means in its power, and on every occasion, the strongest desire for the welfare and advancement of the Empire, and in the maintenance and promotion of a good understanding and thorough fellowship between and amongst its inhabitants; in its members making known the progress and prospects, and the wants and grievances, of imperial interest and concern, of those parts of the Empire from which they are deputed, and in communicating full, authentic, and reliable information regarding the same; in the removal, as far as may lie in its power, by information, explanation, and conciliation, and by all other peaceful and rational means, of all causes of misunderstanding and complaint that may happen to arise between and among the various parts of the Empire; in its devising measures and in considering those that may be suggested or submitted to it, for the promotion of the common welfare; and, where it shall see fit, in reporting any of these measures, with its views thereon, to the imperial and local legislatures, for their consideration, and, should they see cause, for adoption.

SCHEDULE referred to in the foregoing proposed Act, shewing
the Number and Apportionment of the Members of the
Joint Committee.

EUROPE.

1. *The United Kingdom.*

The number of Members of the Joint Committee to be nominated by the Imperial Parliament shall be [say]	120
Whereof her Majesty shall ap- point	40
The House of Lords	40
The House of Commons	40
	<hr/>
	120

2. *Man.*

Three Members, whereof Her Ma- jesty shall appoint	1
The Tynwald Court	2
	<hr/>
	3

3. *Jersey.*

Three, whereof her Majesty shall appoint	1
The States	2
	<hr/>
	3

4. *Guernsey.*

Two, whereof her Majesty shall appoint	1
The States	1
	<hr/>
	2

5. *Alderney and Sark.*

One, to be appointed by her Ma- jesty,	1
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6. *Malta and Gozo.*

Two, whereof her Majesty shall ap- point	1
The Legislative Council	1
	<hr/>
	2

7. *Gibraltar.*

One, to be appointed by her Ma- jesty,	1
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AMERICA.

NORTH AMERICA.

1. *Canada, or Quebec and Ontario.*

Twelve, whereof her Majesty shall appoint	4
The Legislative Council	4
The Legislative House	4
	<hr/>
	12

2. *Nova Scotia and Cape Breton.*

Three, whereof her Majesty shall appoint	1
The Council	1
The House of Assembly	1
	<hr/>
	3

3. *New Brunswick.*

Three, her Majesty shall ap- point	1
The Legislative Council	1
The House of Assembly	1
	<hr/>
	3

4. *Prince Edward Island.*

Three, Her Majesty shall ap- point	1
The Legislative Council	1
The House of Assembly	1
	<hr/>
	3

5. *Newfoundland.*

Three, Her Majesty shall ap- point	1
The Legislative Council	1
The House of Assembly	1
	<hr/>
	3

6. *British Columbia and Van-
couver Island.*

One, to be appointed by her Ma- jesty,	1
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WEST INDIES.

1. *Jamaica.*

Three, Her Majesty shall ap- point	1
The Legislative Council,	1
The House of Assembly	1
	<hr/>
	3

2. *The Windward Islands—*

Barbadoes
St Vincent
Grenada
Tobago
St Lucia
Trinidad

Three, whereof her Majesty (through
the Governors and Lieutenant-Go-

governors of the respective Islands
in rotation) shall appoint . . . 1
The Councils, in rotation . . . 1
The Houses of Assembly, in ro-
tation 1

3. *The Leeward Islands*—

Antigua
St Christophers
Montserrat
Nevis
Anguilla
Dominica
Virgin Islands
Bahama Islands
Bermuda Islands

Three, whereof her Majesty (through
the Governors and Lieutenant-Gov-
ernors of the respective Islands
in rotation) shall appoint . . . 1
The Councils, in rotation . . . 1
The Houses of Assembly, in ro-
tation 1

SOUTH AMERICA.

1. *Guiana.*

Two, whereof her Majesty shall ap-
point 1
The Court of Policy 1

2. *Honduras.*

Two, whereof her Majesty shall ap-
point 1
The Council 1

3. *The Falkland Islands.*

One, to be appointed by her Ma-
jesty, 1

AFRICA.

1. *Sierra Leone.*

Two, whereof her Majesty shall ap-
point 1
The Governor and Council . . . 1

2. *Gambia.*

Two, whereof her Majesty shall ap-
point 1
The Governor and Legislative
Council 1

3. *St Helena.*

One, to be appointed by her Ma-
jesty 1

4. *Cape of Good Hope.*

Three, whereof her Majesty shall
appoint 1
The Council 1
The House of Representatives . . 1

5. *Natal.*

Three, whereof her Majesty shall
appoint 1
The Council 1
The House of Representatives . . 1

6. *Mauritius.*

Two, whereof her Majesty shall ap-
point 1
The Legislative Council 1

7. *The Gold Coast.*

Two, whereof her Majesty shall ap-
point 1
The Governor and Legislative
Council 1

ASIA.

1. *Aden.*

One, to be appointed by her Ma-
jesty, 1

2. *Ceylon.*

Six, whereof her Majesty shall ap-
point 2
The Executive Council 2
The Legislative Council 2

One-half shall be natives of the
United Kingdom, or their descend-
ants; the other half natives of Cey-
lon.

3. *India.*

Thirty, whereof her Majesty shall
appoint 16
The Supreme Council 8
The Council of Madras 4
The Council of Bombay 2

One-half shall be natives of the
United Kingdom, or their descende-
ants; the other half natives of In-
dia.

	4. <i>Labuan.</i>			3. <i>South Australia.</i>	
	One, to be appointed by her Majesty 1			Three, whereof her Majesty shall appoint 1	
				The Council 1	
	5. <i>Hong Kong.</i>			The House of Representatives 1	
	Two, whereof her Majesty shall appoint 1			—	3
	The Legislative Council 1	2		4. <i>West Australia.</i>	
				One, to be nominated by her Majesty 1	
	AUSTRALASIA.				
	1. <i>New South Wales.</i>			5. <i>Tasmania.</i>	
	Three, whereof her Majesty shall appoint 1			Three, whereof her Majesty shall appoint 1	
	The Council 1			The Council 1	
	The House of Representatives 1	—		The House of Representatives 1	3
				—	3
	2. <i>Victoria.</i>			6. <i>New Zealand.</i>	
	Three, whereof her Majesty shall appoint 1			Three, whereof her Majesty shall appoint 1	
	The Council 1			The Council 1	
	The House of Representatives 1	—		The House of Representatives 1	3
		3		—	3
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Such is the proposition for the formation of the Joint Committee in its principle and general details. Gathered from so many regions of the earth, and elected by so many different constituents, it would present the most varied, interesting, and useful assembly the world ever saw. And, formed, as it would be, of highly benevolent and intelligent men, having neither place, power, nor patronage to contend about, its procedure and deliberations would all tend to be harmonious, instructive, refining, and elevated.

It may, however, be objected, in reference to these details, that the members are not allocated in proportion to the population of the different parts of the Empire. To this it is answered, (1.) that exact arithmetical allocation is practically unattainable, the population of the different parts of the Empire being so very small in certain cases, and so extremely large in others, and so irregular in number in all; (2.) it would occasion great expense to have a large number of members coming from great distances; and (3, and chiefly), as the Joint Committee is not to be invested with any legislative or taxative

power over the Empire, or any of its parts, exact arithmetical accuracy in allocating the members is not at all essential, and other important practical elements may be fully taken into account in such allocation. A few well selected men of acute, intellectual, benevolent, and expansive minds, would, in such a body as that proposed, be of infinitely greater value than a great number not possessed of these qualifications; and, as the selection depends on the legislatures and governments, they would no doubt discharge their duty in this respect properly and successfully, so as to obviate all objections, and leave nothing to be desired.

It will also be observed, as to the allocation of the members, that it is proposed that a large number should be nominated by the Imperial Legislature. This, it is believed, will, on due consideration, be assented to by all as expedient and proper—(1.) with reference to the position of the Imperial Legislature in the Empire; and (2, and more particularly) because it is highly desirable that a sufficiently large number of members should be nominated by the Imperial Legislature to give full weight, cordiality, and effect to their reception and treatment of their fellow-members from the other parts of the Empire, on their arrival and while resident in the mother country. To attain this most important practical object, the British Members of Committee ought, it is submitted, to be at least equally numerous with those coming from abroad.

A brief summary shall now be given of the reasons for, and of the advantages which would result from, the institution of the Joint Committee.

1. It could be easily established.
2. It would give the Empire a much higher organization than it now possesses.
3. It would bind the Empire closely together.
4. It would place the Empire on the most durable of all bases—the basis of mutual knowledge, justice, and goodwill.
5. For it would make its inhabitants take a much warmer in-

terest in each other than they now do, as being clearly recognised to be members of the same great community.

6. And it would thus tend to expand, elevate, and beautify their moral and intellectual natures and action.

7. It is suited to the advanced and advancing intelligence of the times, and to their improved means of locomotion.

8. It carries out the safety-valve system of representative and deliberative institutions, to which this country owes so much.

9. It is at once a liberal and conservative institution, as it is not a supersession or rival of any of, but only an addition to, and superstructure upon, the other institutions of the Empire.

10. Britain, as the mother country, head of the Empire, and place of meeting of the Joint Committee, would occupy a still higher position throughout the world than she has ever yet done, high as that position has long been.

11. It would be a source of constant gratification to the Colonies and Dependencies to be brought so closely into connexion with the mother country.

12. It would greatly augment the moral influence of the Empire, in and by the rectification of internal and external misunderstandings, in the promotion of improvements, and in all other respects.

13. It would thus, it is believed, altogether do away with all chance of internal war.

14. And it would greatly reduce, if not altogether do away, with all chance of external war.

15. It would thus, in all probability, cause immense gain to the Empire, but especially to Britain; for past wars still cost Britain nearly thirty millions per annum; and the expectation of future wars cost upwards of twenty millions per annum, exclusive of all the other evils inherent in and resulting from war, as lately evinced in India.

16. It would have a most improving effect in every respect, social and political, and particularly as regards agriculture, manufactures, commerce, emigration, and public law.

17. Its meetings and published deliberations would be a

source of instruction and gratification to the many millions concerned.

18. It would contribute to good government everywhere in the Empire, and also, indirectly, out of it; and it would tend to hold all misgovernment strongly in check.

19. It would simplify the difficult question of the government of India, checked most beneficially as that government would be by the existence of the Joint Committee, formed partly of the natives of India themselves, whose views and suggestions on the subject of their own government would thus be obtained, and taken into account by all concerned.

20. It would tend to mitigate, and ultimately to remove, all narrow-minded prejudices of every sort, whether of caste, or race, or creed.

21. As people are ultimately ruled and led by information and reasoning, and high moral sentiment, and not by mere dictatorial legislation, the want of direct legislative power would not impair the good effects of the Joint Committee in any respect, while it would prevent the possibility, through hastiness, inadvertence, or mistake, of its doing any evil.

22. The Gospel of Christ would be exalted and enforced by the institution and existence of the Joint Committee and its operations more than by thousands of sermons, and its mild and loving precepts would be more and more appreciated and acted upon.

23. All these advantages, great as they are, would not, at least need not, cost Great Britain more than £3000 per annum, and the expense to each of the Colonies and Dependencies would be very little, depending entirely on the number of their representatives; whereas the late rebellion in India alone has and will cost far beyond £300,000 per annum in all time since and to come.

24. Therefore, every true patriot, every true Christian, and every lover of humanity, ought to rejoice in the prospect of the institution of the Joint Committee, and ought strenuously to aid in its accomplishment, as forming what would be one of the

greatest and most powerful instruments for the advancement of civilization, and for the diffusion of its blessings over the whole earth.

It must be unnecessary to enforce at further length these numerous, solid, and sufficient reasons for the establishment of the proposed Joint Committee; but it may be remarked, lest it might be thought that the Committee would be troublesome from the length of its sessions, that it is not supposed that any of its sessions need, under any ordinary circumstances, last longer than a month at farthest.

An official, subject to the superintendence of the Prime Minister, or Secretary of State for the Colonies, could attend to all the points of form in convening and conducting the meetings of the Joint Committee, and could also act as its clerk.

A cry of impracticability, or of inutility, may be got up against the proposition now submitted; but as this is the approved way, however pernicious it may be, in which every improvement, especially if a great one, is received at first, it decides nothing.

Should Government and the Imperial Legislature take up the matter, it is submitted that any proposed Bill on the subject should be transmitted to the local legislatures and governments for their views thereon, with special reference to their respective interests.

