

But it is not in the granting of a measure of Home Rule to Ireland that signs of a striking revolution in British affairs is manifested. Lord Salisbury was reported a few days ago as entirely in sympathy with a federation of all the different portions of the British empire. By this federation is meant a union of the scattered colonies with the home government. 'This scheme must be surprising to the average conservative Britisher, yet it is being actively prosecuted in England. There is already established an Imperial Federation League, and at its meeting in London a few days ago, Lord Salisbury's attitude on federation was favorably commented on.

This idea has been agitated for years in trade circles. The obstacles to a commercial federation were not considered serious, while those presenting themselves in the way of political union seemed to many insurmountable. As to the Australian and American colonies, and even the Cape settlements, there seems no great hindrance to their going in the union. But with India the case is different. How would such a vast empire be represented in the Imperial Parliament? It could not be on a basis of population as the other States would expect to stand.

There is another difficulty in the case of French-Canadians, it is doubtful whether they would willingly enter a union of this kind. However, the scheme is earnestly considered, and it looks as if some definite plan for agreement will be prepared, and then a conference of colonial statesmen will be called to consider it.

Dispatches from Berlin state that a gigantic commercial union has been formed by Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy and Switzerland. A conference will be held in Berne on July 20th next and a constitution adopted by which the league will be governed. How far this union will affect France, England, the United States and other countries politically can not well be determined until the result of the Berne conference has been published.

It looks as if the trust craze had taken possession of the nations of the world. In place of individuals forming combines to control trade and industry, we have the powerful countries of Europe entering into zolvereins, federations and alliances. The situation is not much different in America. Mr. Blaine's reciprocity scheme has in it the idea of commercial unity among the republics of this continent. Perhaps it was this enterprise on the part of our Secretary of State, that has set the European ball rolling.

THE GAMBLING PASSION.

THE respectable public of America is pausing, so to speak, to see what the respectable public of England and Europe is going to say about the Prince of Wales scandal. There is already an audible undertone in American circles, which, if we interpret it rightly, means a mighty revolt against the gambler in all of his guises. But America feels that England, thanks to the heir apparent to her throne, has earned the privilege at least to take the initiation step in the great crusade.

But whether English society takes a stand for the suppression of the iniquity or not, the signs of the times portend a roar from this side of the water pretty soon that will be heard even beyond the English Channel.

It was once simply a social disgrace to the people who for years sent their chief gamblers to represent them in the important concerns of the government; but the vice is now manifesting the symptoms of a national passion, the expense of which is something very much like the burden of a public tax. The people may for awhile smile at the disgrace of a vice, but when from a disgrace it develops into a system of wholesale robbery, and they have to foot the bills the case becomes more serious.

In the hundreds of banks that have been plundered and public treasures looted by thieving employees, gambling in some form has been at the bottom of the crime. Either speculating in futures, or the no less abominable practice of horse-race gambling in which our senators and congressmen take a peculiar interest, has led the otherwise capable cashier or treasurer into the use of money not his own, and so the people are plundered.

While the theory of public horse racing may be all right in point of encouraging the cultivation of valuable stock, with the pool selling and book-making attachment, its reaction on the public morals is debauching. No modern vice receiving the sanction of law has done more to degrade the manhood of the present generation.

"MORMONS" IN NEW MEXICO.

THE small foundation for many of the cries that arouse the country over "Mormon" influence in politics is exposed in the case of the "Mormons" in New Mexico, as explained by the *Albuquerque Citizen*, as follows:

"It will be remembered that during the campaign last year for the adoption of the constitution, the enemies of that instrument used as one of their reasons

for opposing it the alleged fact that we had so many Mormons in the Territory that there was danger that they might get control of the government and make New Mexico a Mormon commonwealth. Well, a bulletin just received from the census bureau shows that the entire number of persons of that faith in this Territory at the time the campaign was in progress last summer was just 442! That is not a very formidable host, certainly, but then it doesn't take a very large capital to set a Democratic howler up in business, and the 442 Mormons in New Mexico probably served the purpose just as well as if there had been 44,000 of them. But aside from all questions of politics, the official document from which we quote will probably serve to put to rest the uneasy minds of those who have been perturbed lest the Territory should be overrun by the followers of Brigham Young.

"From the experience we have had thus far, the most cool-headed men in the Territory are of the opinion that it would not do us any harm, either morally or physically, to have a few more of the same sort of settlers. With a 'Gentile' population of over a hundred and fifty thousand, we certainly have nothing to fear from the political influence of a few thousand Mormons, and as thrifty and industrious tillers of the soil, their settlements in Arizona show that they have but few equals among any class of people in the United States."

BELIEF AS A POLITICAL ISSUE.

"We say there has been no surrender of polygamy, not one word of surrender. There is not a word in all that has been said and written where any Mormon has in the least been made to say that he believes polygamy is wrong, that he believes the command of God has been revoked in one word."

Of course the foregoing paragraph is from the organ of the "Liberal" faction; no other paper in Utah would utter so palpable a falsehood and take such an outrageous position. What more the "Mormon" people could do on the polygamy question than they have done, would puzzle their bitterest enemy to point out. As to their belief, no one has the right to bring them into question.

For many years it has been stated that if the "Mormon" Church would cease to countenance and perform plural marriages there would be no objection to it. If one paper more than any other has made this statement repeatedly, it is the organ of the "Liberal" faction. The action taken by the "Mormon" Church, endorsing the declaration of its President forbidding future plural marriages, was more than was ever expected or even demanded by the most prominent of anti-polygamists. It is entirely satisfactory to every sincere and fairminded non-Mormon who has taken the trouble to find out what it is and what it means.

And yet we are told now that "there has been no surrender, not one word of surrender." We ask every candid person in this community to read those words, and then form his or her own