the very root of human nature itself. In the first place, by
some restrictive enactments, binding on their successors, to
purge the social and political elements from the magistracy, and
make it what it should always have been—a purely judicial
body. And, secondly, to help towards the abolition of the
traffic in appointments heretofore governments and parliaments by
establishing strict competitive examinations in the public
service. A variety of auspicious circumstances enables the
present Administration to do this at a much smaller loss of
party support than men who, longer in public life, are more or
less, from the exigencies of things, committed to the evil that it
is. Whatever time may show to be fatal in Mr. Forster's
shortcomings, he has two preeminent qualities for this task,—the
want of which in his predecessor, were he a Richelieu, a
Mazarin, a Pombal, or a Peel, would have disabled him from
effecting change in an apparatus of government,—courage and
honesty.

AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION (1860).

Only in New South Wales, where the importance of it should
be perhaps most obvious, do people seem to look upon the
Great question of Australian Federation with indifference. It
has been mentioned as an affair of moment in the speech placed
by one Ministry in the vice-regal mouth, and forgotten, with
the characteristic shuffle of Cooperrism, by that of another.
Our legislators can fight with the measurment of a storming
party, night after night, in the House, about questions too
 trifivial almost for the attention of a rural munipality. But
this great business of securing national growth and national
measurment on a basis of territorial union, there is no one to
call attention to. Mr. Dow Thompson did, we believe, take
some preparatory action on the matter in the Legislative Council,
but there it rests. is the neglect because of a general belief
that nothing good can come out of the Nazarch of that most
ancient and honourable gentleman? Is the fact of a question,
which is not only a party one, but transcends in magnitude and
certainty of beneficial results all other general questions, taking
inception at the hands of Mr. Dean Thompson, sufficient to have left behind a deterring trail of the serpent?

But however supine we in New South Wales choose to be in this business, the neighbouring Colonies view it as its paramount importance deserves. Victoria, South Australia, and Van Diemen’s Land (Tasmania) have for a considerable time past, by their respective Legislatures, appointed delegates for the purpose of meeting to consider the matter fully, and of endeavouring to fix the terms of a Federation. The mother-territory of New South Wales has alone neglected to send representatives, and mainly from this cause, we believe, nothing has yet been done; either, therefore, our Parliament is infinitely more sagacious than the combined legislative wisdom of the three Colonies, and stands aloof with haughty indifference, for a thing too peculiar to be even worth talking over; or otherwise, our rulers and our representatives are guilty of a dereliction of duty quite as worthy of debate as, for instance, the motion on which some nights since that illustrious triumvirate, Messrs. Weekes, PERRIN, and Robertson, divided in the practical minority that ever found itself “like honey pots all of a row,” since in very recent times representative bodies have come to be a laughing-stock.

Surely some of the public time set apart for such performances as the juvenile Member for Windsor’s self-procured levities and the ill-chosen aspersions of the gentleman representing Parkes, might be devoted to the examination of the policy of endeavouring to effect the great scheme of Australian Federation.

The political benefits of Federation range themselves, we take it, into two classes. The first connects itself with the creation and preservation of a broad national policy. Though the advantages of this are directly and practically political, yet it is in its essential nature a moral and social gain. The curse of a small community in dealing with questions of State—that is, questions moving on great principles and liable to arrest from powerful interests—the municipal spirit and the spirit of personality. These are interwoven. But if the community be one of a group, it has external ties besides.

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History, ancient and modern, illustrates this,—the wars of the Saxon Heptarchy, the feuds of the petty Irish monarchies, as well as the everlasting heart-burnings and strife of the Italian and Flemish republics. Under the influence of this spirit, to blind: mutual preserve and to do immense damage, it is not necessary that the spirit itself should take active practical shape, in vast armaments or invading squadrons. Its destroying power, under the conditions of modern society, when much of the mighty thirst of aggrandisement has given way to the commercial, may be felt in a variety of ways; and even in a group of British Colonies like our own strongly enough. It will be recollected, that during the period extending from the latter days of the American Colonial Confederation yet sprang up to oppose British tyranny, to the times of the specific settlement of the Federal Union, the trade of these Colonies and their commercial honours were almost ruined by mutual jealousies and obstinacies. We suspect at this moment that there are Victorian and South Australian colonists who, as regards people from New South Wales or Tasmania, have the graces of that which in their native born descendants will ripen into national differences, and certain qualities of national feeling, about which resides some danger. And clearly, by way of a moment’s digression, if the Australian Colonies are ever to become a powerful nation, it must for every conceivable reason, local and general, internal and external, be by union.

If then, union be good, the sooner we have it the better, in order that the natives of the soil may as soon as possible feel themselves citizens of one great state and fellow-countrymen; particularly as there are immense practical advantages to come into operation the moment the thing is effected.

Let us have no local differences, some no doubt from ethnologic causes, but not a whit the more to be desired for that, and some for personal reasons, both of which may be figured by the case; each other of the Englishman and the Scot; the Austrian and the Prussian. But of this first class of advantages of Federation, that which we would particularly insist on is a sure result, is the elevation and enlargement of the nature of administration and of parliamentary govern-
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actual inequality to govern, and their equivocal abstract of character to be trusted. The other class of benefits a Federal Union of the Colonies would obtain us are too obvious to 

encourage upon. A uniformity of tariff, an assimilation of land-
policy, and ultimately a central power, somewhere, to deal for 

family national purposes with the public lands, a harmonious 
because national management of mail systems, a large dealing 
with economics of immigration, a removal of all vexatious 
hurdles of regulation likely to prevent the most fluent inter-
course of the inhabitants of Australia, such as affect profes-
sional men and others, are amongst the benefits.

One has been touched upon, especially in this Journal,—the 
establishment of a Court of Appeal from the local supreme 
tribunals of the various colonies, which should supersede the 
only appeal at present existing,—that to the Judicial Committee 
of the Privy Council, so ruinously expensive and inconve-
nient as in effect to be prohibitory. In times of war, by 
Federation alone could the colonies effectively protect themselves, 
with England with enough to do on her hands elsewhere, as 
when war does break out she will have. And this, as an able 
Melbourne contemporary,—the Examinier, we think—puts it, and 
not Dr. Lang's experimentum crucis of "cutting the painter," 
while the "painter" is an admirable appendage, is alone the 
way to meet war emergencies.

We have mentioned Dr. Lang. With that honourable and 
revered gentleman we have few sympathies, and the measure of 
our respect for him is by no means large. But he is a man of 
great ability, and has far more of the statesman's perception 
in him than is generally found amongst local men. From his 
turn of mind, and his habit, for years, of looking at Australian 
topics through a medium of national largeness, we know no 
man in the House, just now, in whose hands the question of 
Federalism would be safer.

PEN-SKETCH CARTOONS (1860).

Philosophically considered, perhaps a Puck is objectionable. 
A laughing philosopher is an excellent thing in its way;