

example of what one might expect from a man who has made his every experience count.

BRITISH FEDERALISM

Last week, on the day following Mr. Asquith's announcement of withdrawal from membership in the House of Commons, Sir Edward Grey made a speech before the House which may be referred to in the future as a really historic pronouncement. For the first time a British Minister gave a formal and authoritative suggestion of the Federation of the United Kingdom. This follows the more informal suggestion by influential men of "devolution." This means that they propose to proceed from the idea of applying the principle of Home Rule to Ireland to its application to Scotland, to Wales, even to Lancashire. Why not, then, to Ulster?

As applied to Ulster, it means leaving to it a local option as to whether or not it will come under the provisions of the present Home Rule Bill for Ireland until such time as a plan of federal government for all the British Isles—and possibly for all the British dominions—can be effectively formulated. Sir Edward Grey's speech is the latest word of the present Liberal Cabinet on the subject of Home Rule. He defined the Government's policy, not, as it had been previously defined, as a question which must be settled now, with no provision for a review by the country, but as opening the door of hope. The utmost promised by the Ministry was that any counties of Ulster so voting might be excluded from the provisions of the bill for six years. The idea was that at the end of the six years those counties would come automatically under the Home Rule Bill if enacted into law. But Sir Edward Grey did not put it that way. Referring to the six-year period, he said that "the country must settle the question at the end of that time," and that "*if the difficulty was not solved by the introduction of a federal system*, the country would go under through the sheer inability of Parliament to transact its business."

This hint of a coming federal system for Great Britain will hardly appeal to most Irish Nationalists, who would not consent to any system permanently to dismember the island. But it does appeal to many other men, especially to Mr. Balfour, formerly Conservative Prime Minister. In the debate last week he said that he was ready to lend a hand if devolution—or, as we would say, a

federal system—would solve the problem of the government of Ireland. Thus a trusted statesman on each side has now committed himself in favor of a scheme which ought to be worked out so that each region, if a unit, racially, religiously, economically, and socially, shall be bound by willing and honorable obligation as a unit politically. If the Irish Home Rule issue can have this as its result, it will be worth all that it has cost.

A QUEEN IN HER COUNTRY'S DEFENSE

The proposed visit to America of Queen Eleanore of Bulgaria, a portrait of whom appears in the picture section of this issue, is unique in its character and purpose. Her chief mission is to put before the American people a protest and refutation of the charges of atrocity and cruelty brought against Bulgaria by its enemies in the Balkan War. In common with her people, she has a warm interest in America and a keen desire that Americans should understand Bulgarian conditions and should sympathize with Bulgaria's resentment against injustice. The plan is to make her visit democratic, unostentatious, and unofficial. It has been announced that her visit would take place in June, and rumors that the idea had been abandoned are contradicted, apparently with full knowledge of the circumstances, in an article of some length recently published in the New York "Evening Post." From this we learn that Queen Eleanore's addresses will not be delivered before audiences gathered in the ordinary way by sale of tickets, but before specially invited audiences, and thus will be of the nature of semi-public receptions; it is proposed that she speak in New York, perhaps in Carnegie Hall, and in several other large cities.

Mr. Calvin B. Brown, Commissioner to Bulgaria from the Panama-Pacific Exposition, describes an interesting talk with the Queen about this proposed visit, "a project very near her heart." Mr. Brown says:

All Bulgarians look with interest to America. Like the royal family, they are intensely interested in everything American. Aside from the desire to correct the impression of the Bulgarians that has been spread abroad by their enemies, the Queen has been actuated in her desire to make this visit by a wish for the opportunity of studying American institutions, especially hospitals and our great charitable and philanthropic enterprises, in which subjects she is

particularly interested. . . . I told her she must be careful to make arrangements to have her dignity upheld, and that she must be prepared for rather breezy methods. But the more I said the more interested she became, and she insisted to the end that when she came she wished to come simply and in a democratic manner, and not as one sovereign visiting another in state. She wished to tell the people—and especially the women—of America what kind, industrious folk the people of Bulgaria are.

Queen Eleanore's patriotic devotion was shown during war-time in hospital and relief work, and in caring for the poor and suffering families of her peasant soldiers, so that she earned the popular title of "the Nursing Queen." Her people honor and love her. If her desire is carried out, Americans will greet her with respect, and will listen to her message with attention and sincere regard for herself and her country.

THE RUSSIAN CHOIR AGAIN

Those who have heard the choir of the Russian Cathedral of St. Nicholas in New York City have taken a journey into a new land of music. The Outlook has already given some account of this choir and of its music in the course of comment upon a concert of that choir earlier in the season. The choir, week before last, gave another concert at Aeolian Hall. This time the programme consisted of Lenten music.

Most Americans are familiar with two streams of church music: one Protestant, the other Roman Catholic. One of these, the Protestant, has its chief sources in two countries, England and Germany; the other, the Roman Catholic, has its chief sources in Italy and France. Here is another stream that may enrich the church music of America. This has its rise in Russia.

Nothing like this Russian music is to be found in the church music we are familiar with. It has nothing of the stolidity of the German, the dehumanized quality of the Anglican, or the dramatic, not to say theatrical, characteristics of music distinctively Latin. Even in the modern works of the Russian Church composers there is a strain of the primitive, at times verging upon the barbaric. And the strange thing about it is that this trait appeals to every kind of listener. Perhaps that is because there is no one of us, however civilized and sophisticated, who has not preserved in himself something of

the primitive man from whom we have all descended. There is something vigorous and real about this music. Perhaps it is because of its disregard of convention whenever convention would prevent it from expressing a genuine religious feeling.

America has been called the melting-pot of the races. It is not unlikely to prove to be a melting-pot for racial forms of art. If so, it is to be hoped that one of the elements in American music of the future will be supplied by the music of the Russian Orthodox Church. We wish that this remarkable choir of the Cathedral of St. Nicholas, under the leadership of its masterful and musicianly choirmaster, Ivan Gorokhoff, might be heard widely throughout the country.

HUBERT VON HERKOMER

In 1849, at Waal, Bavaria, a boy was born whose destiny was decided by his father. "This boy shall be my best friend," said the father, "and he shall be a painter." As one looks over the life just closed of Hubert von Herkomer, who shall not say that the father's care was the essential thing in the boy's training? The lad was too delicate to attend school, so his father devised a method of instruction somewhat like that followed by the father of the poet Tagore. The elder Herkomer urged his son to go daily to a stretch of wild woodland a little way off, and there to give up his thoughts to imaginative fancies, which were discussed each evening, and their application to the problems of modern existence explained.

This took place in England, where the family had settled, after vainly journeying from Germany to America to find precisely the home suited to the elder Herkomer, his wife, and their only son. The son became a member of the Royal Academy and Professor of Art at Oxford. He painted landscapes, figure pieces, portraits; among them some of permanent merit because of a daring originality, which might be traced to the wild woodland. Those who have visited the painter at Bushey, his country home, where his individual qualities were very evident, could best appreciate his work. He was quick and alert, and he put his animation on canvas. Not a great colorist, not a great stylist, his technique was adequate. Moreover, he had an intellectual grasp and always the human touch.

He was a many-sided man. Not satisfied with painting in oil, he was also a water-