

fore our eyes, and to remind us of the inferior political standing which we, as a particular people, occupy in comparison with themselves. Their motives in doing so may not be difficult to divine; but there is sufficient foundation for such comparisons to make them especially odious to the Colonists. The people of the Colonies feel that such a state of things need not continue. It is true that it is inseparable from the present disconnected condition of the Colonies; but when it is taken into consideration that these Colonies, taken collectively, now number a population of nearly four millions,—that they boast of a mercantile marine inferior only to those of Great Britain and the United States,—that their territory is greater than any other upon this continent except Brazil, and is quite as rich as that Empire in the resources requisite for sustaining population—it is but reasonable that they should feel dissatisfied with conditions in consequence of which, notwithstanding all this, they still remain in a state of political nonentity relative to the outside world. For were these Colonies united so as to become one consolidated Viceroyalty, the bare fact of that union taking place would immediately give British North America a high *status* among nations. She would be looked upon and respected as a *quasi* independent power of a high order; whilst her connection with the Mother Country would not, in any degree, be weakened.

The repressive effect of the present condition of the Colonies upon all ambitious *individual* effort, within their limits, is perhaps still more widely and keenly felt. Owing to the very limited sphere which each separate Colony affords for such effort, the prospect of achieving honors and distinctions in any of what are called the *professions*, is disheartening in the extreme. Each Province has but few prizes, either in the shape of titles, or more substantial honors, to offer as the reward of successful talent, either to the professional politician, or to the man who follows any other avocation; and those few are so insignificant as to present but few attractions to men of superior intellect and lofty aspirations. We are proud to know that some British American Colonists have achieved distinction in the British Army and Navy; but it is to be feared that a long period must elapse before very many of our young men can employ themselves in that sphere, because it is too expensive for most Colonial fortunes, and because when a Colonist enters the British Army, or Navy, he may almost be said to expatriate himself for life. As for the other paths by which the men of Great Britain reach distinction and are rewarded with honors, they are practically closed against the Colonist.

Here again the contiguity of the Colonies to the United States suggests disagreeable comparisons. In that great Republic, the scope for individual exertion is immense; and although the rewards