

claims: the problem was to reconcile them by finding a formula that would satisfy both parties. All the proposals for effecting a closer Imperial unity during the first period were, with one curious exception, the endeavours of many different men to hit upon this suitable formula. Thus all but one of the Imperial proposals during this early period occur during the few short years of the American dispute, for they were not only precipitated but also terminated by it. The leading idea was representation in the British House of Parliament; but it did not monopolize the whole field, for several other suggestions were advanced as possible solutions.