

INTRODUCTION

At a time when the subject of the closer union of the Empire is much to the fore, and when the centripetal forces making for such union are stronger than they were in the past, the story of previous efforts at consolidation, as given in the following essay, will be of interest. Its author is a Canadian Rhodes Scholar; and, as such, likely to realize the advantages of closer union, and also to appreciate the difficulties that still lie in the way.

With regard to the first part of the volume, which deals with the various proposals made about the time of the American Revolution, little need be said. Such proposals had, nearly in every case, the motive behind them of extracting a revenue from the Americans without doing violence to the principle of