

the limits of this paper, which is already sufficiently lengthy, it is found impossible to discuss them.

A few words, however, regarding the important proposition recently entertained of a Confederation of the British North American Provinces, and the construction of a national railroad between Halifax and Quebec. Many are sanguine in the expectation, that no difficulty will arise in the preparation and completion of this measure. We hold that some plan must be adopted to give additional strength to each of the Provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Cape Breton. It cannot be denied that this result would be best attained by the consolidation of all these separate powers into one. The principal difficulty to be met is in obtaining the sanction of the people of each Province to any particular form of government which may be suggested or decided upon by the Imperial Parliament, with the advice of delegates from the several Provinces. The opinions of these several delegates, or of a majority of them, may certainly be in favor of confederation under the direction and rule of the Colonial Office, but we must candidly believe that were such a plan submitted, as in such case it necessarily must be, to the vote of the people, the sanction would not be unanimously accorded. In our apprehension the only form of government which could possibly obtain in the proposed confederation is the Republican, on the system of the United States. The division of the confederation into States, with Local Legislatures, each possessing the sovereign power of legislating for the wants of that particular state, having a Senate and Congress at the Capital to perform the duties of a central legislature, seems to us the most feasible plan. The head of the confederation should also be chosen from among the colonists themselves.

At present in these colonies, no broad self-acting principles are laid down for establishing colonial liberty, in harmony with the central power. The United States have solved this problem. Her emigrants subdue the wilderness, establish their own municipal institutions, coalesce into a territory, receive judges from the central executive, and finally, when their numbers reach the requisite point, can demand to be accepted into the Union as a constituent state, on submitting to a few broad and necessary principles, notorious and universal. In that system it is by fairness, by publicity, by broad and unchanging principle that the United States has produced such great results, and Canada has begun to thrive just in proportion as she has become emancipated from the control of a British Colonial Office. The American system promotes the interests of freehold cultivators, while the Colonial Office struggles to keep up rich landlords and indigent peasants and shepherds toiling for wages. Our rulers do not seem to wish the independence of the lower classes in the Colonies.

For these reasons we would deem it imprudent to hasten a confederation of the Provinces under the direction and rule of