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recent interview appear to have been very greatly misinter-
preted by those who assert that they evinced an indifference
to the connection. The occasion and circumstances were not
such as to call forth expressions of a more emphatic kind,
his object being chiefly to disclaim the idea of exercising
force for the retention of an unwilling dependency.

I have no panacea, either in the shape of a Colonial
Council or modified colonial representation in the House of
Commons, or recognised colonial representatives in England,
for the removal of the alleged causes of dissatisfaction.
The Colonial office may, with great propriety, be left to deal
with all matters of administration and with such modifica-
tion in the relations of any colony to the empire as its
changed condition may call for. In any such modification
it is obvious that the protective character of existing rela-
tions must be superseded by one possessing more the elements
of a Federative Union. I am not aware that the colonies
have any reason to complain of the reluctance of the Colonial
department in the past to consider or give effect to any
changes which any colony thought it for its interest to
propose.

But fundamental changes with reference to the entire
system are surely premature. The colonial life is but little
more than in its infancy. It is only 30 years since Canada
possessed the stimulus of responsible government. The
great experiment of consolidating British power in North
America through her instrumentality has had less than three
years' trial. The vast Colonial Empire of Australia is still
in its minority, and there is surely no reason to believe that
any other system would have made its prosperity more rapid.
But admitting all this, an enquiry with the sanction of

dream, but I still believe in its fulfilment. I believe that the time will come
when, by some means or another, statesmen will be able to weld a bond
together which will unite the English-speaking people in our colonies at pre-
sent—unite them with the mother country in one great confederation."