

a French but a British colony: British, by extent of population; British, by extent of enterprise and wealth. And to yield to a factious demand for separation, without reference to the interests of the British settlers, would be the height of baseness, injustice, and bad faith, on the part of the mother country.

Sir, I entertain a strong opinion as to the general policy to be pursued in regard to these North American colonies. A balance of power (and here I entirely also agree with the Member who last spoke) is wanted on that great continent, to the great and growing power of the United States. Here is the opportunity of forming that balance. Let the colonies be united by some sort of periodical intercourse of representatives from each, to meet at Quebec on matters of trade and commerce, or any subject of common interest to them all, under the auspices of one Governor General; then would they be trained and educated to a feeling of dependence on each other, and to the ultimate desire of confederation when the just period of separation had arrived. Upper and Lower Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, the smaller islands, and Newfoundland, would then form an important and extensive territory, with a population in energy and numbers sufficient to sustain that balance of power in the western world which is so much to be desired. And I trust that the Bill now proposed by my Noble Friend, and the mission of Lord Durham, while they secure the truest freedom and the amplest justice in all respects, and to all parties in Canada, — for in the dispensation of liberty I can draw no distinction between Canada and Britain, — will tend to foster and keep alive that ultimate view to which I have now referred.