

the confederates was to furnish its quota of provisions and men. An Assembly composed of two Representatives from each Colony was to be held annually, with power to deliberate and decide upon all matters of common concern to the confederacy.

In this Union may be clearly traced the origin of the federal union of the present United States of America.

In 1652 the colonists assumed the right of coinage, which has always been considered a prerogative peculiar to royalty; but in both these as well as many other instances the colonies of New England appear to have considered themselves as independent of any superior power.

Hitherto the American provinces had grown up in comparative neglect, and had exercised self-government almost entirely. But having now attained an important position in the commercial world, the mother country attempted to obtain a monopoly of their trade; and for this purpose the Navigation Act was passed in 1660. By this act it was provided that none but English or Plantation built ships, of which the master and three fourths of the crew were Englishmen, should transport American produce across the ocean; and a list of articles, comprising some of the most valuable productions of the colonies, were to be sold only under the head of *enumerated commodities*, were to be sold only in the English markets. New articles were continually added to those enumerated, and subjected to the same restrictions. By a new law additional restraints were imposed, and the importation into the colonies of any European commodities, except those laden in English ships, manned as the act required, was prohibited. None but native born or naturalized subjects were permitted to exercise the occupation of merchant or factor in any English settlement; and all commodities required by the colonists were to be purchased in the markets of the parent country. In this manner the tying down of the trade of the colonies to the exclusive advantage of Great Britain was reduced to a complete system; and it is to these restraints that the first incitement to the American Revolution is to be traced. These laws were continually