

CONCLUSION.

The lesson of the hour is at once suggestive and instructive. There is an opposition to Union, beyond our boundary line, gathering strength and giving forth utterances, which form the strongest and most convincing argument in its favor that has yet been adduced. Our Republican neighbors appear to look upon the Act of Confederation as a sort of menace to themselves; not that they entertain any apprehension that it will ever become a Power either hostile or injurious to their interests, but because Union means a consolidation of strength; the practical application of a principle which promises to give permanence to our political institutions, as well as to open a career of prosperity to our people. The language of the Governor of Maine was significant enough; and that language, insulting as it was to our manhood, has been endorsed by the Legislature of that State without a dissenting voice. The same language, only more pointed and offensive, has been repeated within the walls of Congress. Confederation has been denounced there, for the very reason that it has been advocated here, viz., that it will build up our strength, give us status and influence among the nations, and a prosperity which the United States do not wish to see so near them. They tell us arrogantly that it is inconsistent with the aspirations of the Great Republic, that a great Confederacy, with monarchical leanings, should grow up beside them. They were satisfied so long as we remained isolated, because they knew well that in such a state absorption into the Republic would be but a matter of time. They were content to wait, and by worrying us with prohibitory tariffs, to force us at last to make common cause with them. Confederation has entirely thwarted this policy; and their disappointment and vexation, as we have seen, find utterance in insulting language. This shows that they, too, are firm believers in the advantages that Union will bring to us, as a people—advantages which they grudge, and will prevent us from realising, if they can find the opportunity. Surely, this ought to bring home conviction to the mind of every man, who is willing to be convinced, that there must be something tangible in Union, after all, seeing that American and British statesmen have come to precisely the same conclusion as to the effect it will produce, though animated by very different feelings towards it.