

CONFEDERATION

CONSIDERED ON ITS MERITS.

INTRODUCTORY.—THE PRINCIPLE AND CAPABILITIES OF UNION.

THERE are certain general and universally accepted principles, which lie at the foundation of all truth. The old aphorism, that "Union is strength," enunciates one of these. Mankind have accepted it as a maxim, embodying, in the fewest words possible, a truth which has been confirmed by all past experience and observation, as well as sanctioned by the highest wisdom. If we wish to carry out any important or difficult object, to fight down any formidable opposition, we naturally look around us for any help we can get, we seek to strengthen our position, by concentrating every influence against that which stands in our way. We do this without any teaching from without, but instinctively feeling and believing in the everlasting truth of the axiom, that union is strength, and that to the party who can bring the greatest amount of that strength, whether physical, or moral, to bear, will undoubtedly fall the victory.

SEPARATION or isolation is the natural condition of a community or a State only when in its infancy. Union is one of the strongest instincts of an advancing civilization. Every movement upward or onward is sought and effected by a combination of interests or influences, by a bringing together of forces moral or material, which had formerly been inert, or had endeavored to act apart. The lower the state of civilization, we invariably find, that in the same proportion is the smallness and weakness of the community. Two thousand years ago, Cæsar found England parcelled out among a multitude of petty chiefs and kings, whose strength was wasted in internal dissensions. The Saxon Heptarchy was a step forward; the annexation of Wales another; and the Union of the Crowns of England and Scotland what gave Britain a first place among the nations, and by uniting three kingdoms, converted what was comparative weakness into a Power the mightiest that has yet appeared in the world. Nor is this