

most perfect example of Federated Colonies. Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward's Island enjoyed constitutions substantially the same as ours, and were, consequently, under the control of Governments responsible only to the local Legislatures. For the purpose of attaining the increased vigour and authority which result from union, these Colonies agreed to abandon some of the powers enjoyed by the local Legislatures in favour of a general Parliament and Government authorized to act on behalf of all the Confederated Colonies. A constitution was framed accordingly, under which each Colony retains a local Legislature, possessing complete control over purely local interests, and over the public lands of the Colony, while the Parliament and the Executive of the Dominion are charged with what may be distinguished as national interests. We have printed in an Appendix the principal clauses of the Act of the Imperial Parliament creating the Dominion of Canada, from which the functions of the local and general Legislatures respectively may be seen in detail. On the other hand, there have been examples of a Federal Council having authority only on a few specified subjects, and on such other subjects as were afterwards from time to time referred to it by the local Legislatures. And there have been intermediate methods of more or less perfectly organized union. Opinion in the Colonies seems to be divided between these methods; and a decision can only be arrived at after much debate and negotiation.

“7. But there is a preliminary work to be done, upon which there would probably be a little difference of opinion. To effect a union of any kind, binding alike upon all, an Imperial Act is necessary. Such an Act might be a permissive one, and might authorize the Queen, by proclamation, to call into existence a Federal Union of any two or more of the Australian Colonies as soon as they passed Acts in their respective Legislatures providing, in identical terms, for the powers and functions to be exercised by the General Legislature, and the distribution of seats, and for the adjustment of the Colonial debts in case the nature of the union should render an adjustment necessary. The bases of these identical Acts would, of course, be determined by Conference between the Colonies.

“8. The Permissive Act ought to provide for the admission of Colonies not joining the Union in the first instance, and might also provide a mode of withdrawal upon certain notice for any Colony dissatisfied.

“9. We are distinctly of opinion that ‘the best means of accomplishing a union’ is to remove, by such an act, all legal impediments to it