

nor political wisdom could be more flagitiously violated, than by listening seriously to any such proposals respecting those loyal colonies which nothing but *bad treatment* can separate from us. High considerations of present interest, and considerations higher still as to the future, demand that our policy should be to cherish and protect the provinces that have remained faithful to us—to set their interest apart from others—to entwine them with our own—to attach them by every bond that can be formed to protect their trade as colonists—to provide for their defence against external force—to assist them in fostering and developing their vast natural resources—and to advance with paternal solicitude their moral condition. By such a course, we shall not only *enable*, but *dispose*, our American colonies to take upon themselves, in due season, such expenses as we shall have given them the means of sustaining—until at length, strong enough to stand alone, they come forward to act the part of a son who has been kindly treated, well educated, protected, and liberally provided for in his youth; and who, when ‘set up in the world,’ and enabled ‘to do for himself,’ would scorn to be a burthen to the parent who has so formed and treated him. Let not this be considered a romantic expectation; so far it is felt, very generally, in the