

Rehoboam and Charles the first, he stretched royal prerogative so much that it began to crack and snap, and that then he had sense enough to draw back. As to the idea of a little island, 3000 miles across the ocean ruling a vast continent for all time to come—it is simply absurd: separation must take place some time, and the only question was, at what time? Who is to judge? There is nothing in revelation or nature that could bind the two countries together except mutual ties of interest and good will. That the South has a right to secede from the North, on the same ground that the old colonies seceded from England, is not sustained by facts. The whole American continent was made for one country, and one people. It is not cut up like Europe by mountain chains and inland seas, peninsulas, or a dozen or more different languages and nationalities. Of eighty-four rivers in the United States, seventy-two run through Secession domains, and the cutting this country in two, as proposed, would be like cutting England in two from south to north.

The idea of a balance of power on this continent is an old effete idea that does not belong to America, God teaches by his government of nations. The empires of Central Asia promoted progress as they broke up the petty tribes and clans, and consolidated vast tracts under one Government. After this problem was worked out, the world needed another lesson in human government. Europe, with its territory cut up into small eras, and inhabited each with a different people, forming a community of nations on a rather small scale, has done very much to promote progress. The world needs no more lessons on the subject of balance of power. The tendency of the times, or the indications of Providence, are towards emancipation, physical and religious: toward the consolidation of nationalities, and to the flowing together of all nations. The balance of power theorists would have us repeat the error of Germany, and leave a legacy of war, and sectional boundaries to our descendants for a thousand years, in which they may repent of our folly. Secession was ignored by the old thirteen States, and the doctrine is destructive of all government. We should take care how we plead for the South in this way, for if they succeed, this doctrine of the right of secession may become the political doctrine of America, and what more natural than to imitate our friends, and claim that this doctrine is as orthodox north as it is south of the St. Lawrence.

North America is one country, and made for the inheritance of one people. We are one people in almost every respect, and this anti-British, or anti-American prejudice is absurd and wicked: we must live face to face with the people of this continent, much more than with Europe, and we have a right to govern ourselves and seek our own happiness. It would be a great blessing if, now while the old is being shaken, and may the more