

political science, see in the Union of the North American Colonies danger to British connection.

It may be said that these instances are not happy illustrations of my argument, seeing that revolt and separation followed. Long previously, however, the early charters had been violated, and practices introduced and claims advanced inconsistent with their principles.

Who that regards the earnest desire to avert separation, which at first animated many of the most distinguished actors in the American revolution, will venture to declare that revolt and separation would have ensued had the principles of early charters never been interfered with.

Suppose again that the Albany Union had been effected, under the sanction of the British Government:—May it not be questioned whether even capricious, and inconsiderate and obstinate statesmen would have urged the same claims—acknowledged now to have been arbitrary and unconstitutional—upon the thirteen Colonies compact and strong in Union, which it was illadvisedly thought might safely be ventured upon with separate Colonies, weak in themselves, and apparently without the elements of consolidated power. This revolt and separation that union might—humanly speaking it, probably would—have been averted.

Let me not forget one significant fact.—Not only has the Union of the British North American Colonies been advocated by able British Statesmen, but we have seen that it was a subject of mature consideration and found favor with a Prince of the blood—the father of our revered sovereign. *He* could have seen in it no tendencies to rend an Empire, the maintenance of whose undiminished glory and power, must have been so dear to him.

Before leaving this portion of the subject I feel myself constrained to express a sentiment, which I hope will not be misapprehended or misapplied.

If an Union be necessary for the happiness and prosperity of these Colonies, it is no legitimate ground for withholding it, that it may possibly tend to a severance of the connexion with the parent State. Justice demands alike from Imperial and Colonial Statesmen that on such a question, the primary—the controlling consideration should be the essential and permanent well-being of the Colonies.

It only remains that a few words should be said on the nature of the Union. This may be either by 1st, Confederation: or 2ndly by Legislative Union, including the Lower Provinces, with confederation with Canada.

In all the instances I have quoted, we do not meet with the