

to unite in any undertaking requiring their joint efforts; and, if the operations of the undertaking are intended to extend into more than one Province, it seems to be practically next thing to impossible.

To say that their present state of disunion discourages the production of native literature and mechanical invention, in the Provinces, may seem at the present time, a small argument in favor of union. They being new countries, but few attempts have been made in either of these branches of intellectual development. Yet, however slight the results of this discouragement thus far, they must increase with the lapse of time; and, if suffered to continue, would, without doubt, soon become a very serious evil. Giving an individual the power of securing his patent, or his copyright, over the whole of the Provinces, by going through a troublesome and expensive ordeal in each one separately, can but slightly modify the general tendency of complete inter-colonial independence in this matter.

There are innumerable points of detail in which this want of union seriously retards the general prosperity of the Provinces. Few persons, residing in British America, have not, in their own persons, seriously felt its injurious results. The cure for all this is obvious. Let a legislative union of the Provinces take place, and all the evils alluded to, under this division of the subject, terminate immediately. This is too nearly self-evident to require anything in the shape of proof; and the mode by which that union would effect such a result, is too plain to require any demonstration.

There is yet a third point of view in which the Provinces must be regarded, furnishing an argument in favor of union; that is, *the relation which those Provinces, as component parts of the British Empire, bear to foreign countries, and particularly to the United States of America.* Regarded in this respect, their present aspect must suggest feelings of not the most pleasurable nature to a large majority of the British Americans, and certainly should give some concern to the Mother Country. The United States have, since attaining their independence, increased in area, wealth and physical strength to an

extent which has aroused the wonder, and which, but for some attendant circumstances, might excite the admiration of the civilized world. That republic has not been at all particular as to the means by which her present *status* has been attained. She is the embodiment of ultra-Democracy, among the civilized states of the New World, as Russia is the embodiment of ultra-Monarchical Absolutism, among those of the Old: and the rapid progress of the two nations, from comparative insignificance to a prominent rank among the first class powers, has been not dissimilar, either in general nature, or in the means by which effected. That rapid rise to power has doubtless been caused, in a great measure, by activity in internal improvements; but it has been mainly owing to a system of aggression by which they have increased their own strength at the expense of neighbors who were too heedless to be disturbed by those aggressions, or too weak to oppose them. Great Britain, with the other nations of Western Europe, has awakened to a sense of the misdeeds of Russia—she still sleeps over those of the United States, although none the less menacing to her own security. The British American subjects of Her Majesty are too near the scene of action to be unconscious, or uninterested spectators of the aggressive policy of the United States.

In 1803, the Government of that country, by taking advantage of Napoleon's necessities, extorted from the French, under the name of a purchase, the Province of Louisiana, thereby more than doubling the extent of its territory. By driving another extremely clever bargain with Spain, in 1819, Florida was obtained. In 1842, the "Ashburton Treaty," which settled what was called the "North-Eastern boundary dispute," between Great Britain and the United States, gave to the latter, without their having any valid claim to it, a further acquisition of territory, inconsiderable indeed as to extent, but, from its position, of incalculable advantage to British America. This treaty, as has been since clearly proved, was effected by means of gross misrepresentation, on the part of the United States Government and its officials. By a somewhat similar course