

stead of a democracy, a relationship will be established between the mother country and the colonies as intimate as that between the several members of the American Union, and less liable in its nature to disruption.

Having thus stated the general principle pervading the American Constitution, which makes it so apt a model for our imitation, the next step is to examine the provisions by which that principle is carried out in practice. In making this examination, the course I shall pursue is, in the first place, to state, in the words of the constitution, the whole mass of powers vested in the federal government, and then to point out in detail the nature of such powers, and the method of adapting them to a colonial constitution. The enumeration of the powers would not be complete without at the same time adding the prohibitions imposed on the separate states, as, in many cases, the negation of a privilege to the one jurisdiction amounts in fact to conferring it on the other. The prohibitions, therefore, will follow the powers, and be treated of in immediate connexion with them. Now, in order to understand the clauses relating to the federal powers, it is only necessary to add, that the government in whom they are vested is composed of a president, and two houses of parliament, called Congress. The powers themselves are by the 8th section of the Constitution vested in Congress, and are in the following words :—

The Congress shall have power—

1. To levy and collect taxes, duties, imposts, and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defence and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts, and excises, shall be general throughout the United States.