

The Interests of the British Empire

IN

NORTH AMERICA.

The consolidation of British power in North America by the Union of her Colonies, renders a careful consideration of the *Political, Commercial and Military relations*, which exist between the Empire and the Dominion of Canada, a matter of imperative necessity; especially because the phase of political existence into which the Provinces have entered, imposes new duties and enlarges their sphere of action.

Politically—It would be absurd to suppose that the sparse population of the immense territory stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific, known as "British America," would be able to maintain an independent existence. Annexation to the United States—which would follow the attempt—is opposed alike to the traditions, feelings, thoughts and principles, of the people of Canada. It would not be advantageous in any relation, because it would curb their personal liberty by taking the absolute control of their own affairs out of their hands—burthen them with taxes for which no equivalent had been received—confine their mercantile operations within prescribed limits—subject them to fiscal regulations and an excise system oppressive in the extreme—check their progress towards Free Trade—destroy their individuality and present autonomy by overturning their social relations—and deprive them of those securities against political oppression which their constitutional arrangements so admirably provides.

Great Britain protects the "Dominion" as an integral portion of the Empire—does not attempt to tax the people for any purpose—is quite content with a sovereignty almost nominal—leaves the whole machinery of Government to be worked by the popular will—encourages free trade, and by the liberality of the institutions provided, promotes national develop-