

bayonet as a symbol of order, freedom, and civilization. They had seen it, but too recently, red with the blood of martyrs for opinion sake, and bristling round every form of despotic usurpation. Indians in the wood, and Frenchmen on the frontier, were dangerous enemies, but those the early settlers of New England had braced themselves to encounter and subdue. Those perils were external, but what they most feared was the internal danger of the arbitrary exercise of the power of the Crown, backed by British soldiers in their midst. The red coat was ever an object of suspicion and distrust in the New England States, and, as the Governors sent out from home were continually menacing their charters, coming into collision with their general courts, and trying every variety of sap and mine by which the peculiar framework of those democracies might be shattered and overthrown; and as the British soldiers were the janizaries of the Governors, rather than the guardians of public liberty, the prevalent feeling of the old Colonies was this—the fewer soldiers the better; and this feeling of suspicion and distrust, visible to the eyes of all men in all the legislation, correspondence and military organization of the period, finally culminated into armed resistance; and, when blood was shed, and tea destroyed, and minute men and soldiers were shooting each other all along that country road which is now a beautiful carriage drive from Lexington to Boston, the Provincials reaped the advantage of their military training, and justified the policy which you approve; but, strange to say, without perceiving that they had objects in view the very reverse of those which you profess to have at heart.

That you are a loyal gentleman I know, but if I did not know it, I should certainly be at a loss to discover evidence of a desire to keep this Empire together, in your strong recommendation that Her Majesty's Government should pursue towards those noble groups of Colonies which make up, what the *Times* aptly styles, "that mysterious unity called the British Empire," the very policy which always perilled the allegiance of, and ultimately lost to us, the splendid provinces which now form the United or Disunited States.

But, if we had only lost those Provinces by tolerating or encouraging the system you advocate; if, when they had established their Independence, the genial influences of a common origin and of old fraternal relations had been re-established, if they had treated the Revolutionary war as Englishmen do the Wars of the Roses, or as Englishmen and Scotchmen do the old Border Conflicts, as the common treasury of History, Poetry, and Romance, but not of bitter feeling; if they had carried into practice the wise saying of a gallant American Commander in China, now a Confederate Chieftain, and remembered on all occasions, or even on great occasions, "that blood is thicker than water;" if they had given us, what our Colonies invariably give us, their moral support to our diplomacy and their material aid, to the extent of their means, in times of peril, then I will freely admit that your argument would be divested of half its danger. The Colonies could not be preserved by your system, but, if they were friendly nations when they were gone, to part with them might only be a question of dignity and convenience. England