

with pride. Though its history and local associations would be for him unconnected with the traditions of a long line of ancestry, he could hope that they would be brightened by the deeds of a happy and glorious posterity. Few reflecting persons, in British America, of whatever rank, have not perceived, with painful feelings the insignificant position which, in a national point of view, their country has hitherto occupied. A compact political union would be, at once, the most effective and the most feasible means of removing this wide-spread discontent.

The argument for union comprised in the foregoing observations, is one which has been felt and appreciated only by the more intelligent classes of the Colonists. There is another argument, which, whether recognised or not, is certainly felt by all. This is the argument deducible from the *relation which the Provinces bear to each other*—from the effect which their isolated and mutually independent condition has upon their internal prosperity. From the time when the Provinces became separately organised as dependencies of the British Crown, until the present day, they have been as foreign countries to each other. They have, it is true, been, in many respects, alike, although separated. They have been subject to the same Crown, and have had all their principal institutions modelled upon the same originals; yet, from whatever cause it is useless now to enquire, they have, until within a few years past, kept entirely aloof from each other. Each, acting for itself, has quite ignored the existence of the others; and, by this means, needless differences have arisen between their various juridical codes, their public institutions, and their commercial regulations. Not only have such differences arisen, but they have led the Colonists to thwart and seriously injure each other, in their mutual intercourse. Increasing wealth and intelligence, with their consequent demand for a larger field of action, having necessarily brought them into closer contact, have led to the removal of some of the principal impediments in the way of that intercourse; yet those very increased facilities only make more vexatious the remaining obstacles to a perfect union. It is but a few

years since the Colonies adopted the system of free commercial interchange of commodities with each other, instead of the system of protective duties which they had previously upheld to their great mutual injury. They are still separated commercially by the troublesome barriers which necessarily exist between independent countries, however amicably united by treaty alone. The needless existence of so many entirely separate and co-ordinate legal jurisdictions, in a single and compact section of the empire, as British America naturally is, tends, in a great degree, to impede commercial intercourse between its various parts. Moreover, the existence of several sets of commercial regulations, alike in all leading points but just sufficiently dissimilar to clash with each other and to perplex those interested under them, tends, in a still greater degree, to the same result.

Their political isolation hinders the Provinces from carrying out any great work in which they are interested in common, and which requires their joint efforts. A melancholy instance of this may be seen in their futile attempts, extending over a period of some twelve years, towards the construction of an inter-provincial railway. The Provinces were all very desirous of having that great work carried on; and, since it was proposed, have, each of them within its own boundaries, undertaken and commenced similar works of vast magnitude, in proportion to their means. No one doubts that, if the Provinces had been united under a single Colonial Government at the time this great national work was first proposed, the road would now be nearly, if not quite, completed, from Halifax to the foot of Lake Huron.

There are numerous other public works, besides railroads, in which the Provinces are equally interested, requiring the co-operation of all, but which, under the present system, either cannot be carried on at all, or their progress must be attended with checks and delays which are extremely annoying and detrimental to the general interests of the country. So remote are these Provinces, socially and politically, from each other, that it is extremely difficult even for private capitalists, residing in two or more of them,