

sented in the English Parliament, the wisdom of Lord Somers at last succeeded, in 1707, in consolidating the strength of the kingdom, by combining the separate legislatures which ruled England and Scotland, a measure which all the great statesmen on both sides of the Tweed had looked forward to for above 200 years, as calculated to enhance the resources, power, and tranquillity of the whole island.

But it was reserved for the dawn of the nineteenth century to consolidate into one legislature the Parliaments of Great Britain and Ireland. No sooner was the Irish Parliament really free in every respect of co-ordinate authority with the British Parliament, than it was found that there was not the lightest guarantee for their ultimate agreement, thus, as was before adverted to, both Parliaments appointed George IV. Regent on different grounds and with different powers. Mr. Pitt at once saw there could not exist in the same empire two Parliaments, really independent and with equal authority, the thing is politically impossible, notwithstanding all that may be said on the matter.* If, for instance, both Parliaments are resolved to pursue antagonistic courses, and neither will give way, the only possible result is a trial of strength, as between two distinct powers, viz., a civil war.

To sum up: If we would follow the uniform tenor of precedent and the established line of practice—if we reverence the opinions of Burke, Franklin, and the great statesmen of former days—if we would provide against the manifest dangers indicated by Lord Grey—if we would avoid the multiplication of Parliaments, denounced by De Lolme, as subversive of liberty—if we would increase commercial prosperity, and check commercial jealousy—if we would enrich the Imperial legislature with the wisdom of the ablest men of an Empire, on whose territory the sun

* Blackstone says, that "absolute despotic power must, in all governments reside *somewhere*."