

UNION OF THE COLONIES.

INTRODUCTION.

The dates appended to the several titles of the following papers indicate the time at which they were respectively published. They are the results of perhaps the most noteworthy, and certainly the most public efforts which, ever since 1849, the author has, within what seemed not beyond the possible limits of his direct or indirect influence, persistently made, on every seemingly fitting occasion, to advance the great political scheme which these essays advocate. They were, at the respective times of their original publication, pretty generally circulated by the author himself among the more prominent statesmen and politicians of the North American Colonies, and, to a more limited extent, of England also. With these classes they so far met with favor as to be, each of them, republished in full in several of the British American political journals and other periodicals, and in part by several of those of the United Kingdom.

Since the first of these little essays was offered to the public, the popular mind has become comparatively familiarized with the subject of a British American Colonial Union, and the minds of most of our public men are probably matured thereupon. Indeed, many points upon which the honest and painstaking student of Colonial politics then feared to offer his convictions to the public lest they might be scouted as those of an eccentric theorist, have, of late, come to be gravely and generally discussed as practical questions; and what, in 1854, might have been, and in some instances per-