

Colonies themselves, without aid from the Imperial Government, they would probably consider that they had nothing to thank the latter for, and would draw off, wearing towards the Mother Country an independent, defiant air, which slight cause would change into a hostile one. Every hour adds to the pressing necessity for early action in this matter. The local evils, alluded to in the course of these remarks, incident to the political condition of the Lower Provinces, are yearly increasing; whilst in Canada *something must* be done forthwith. The danger of delay is to that Province imminent. If the Lower Provinces are not soon amalgamated with Canada to neutralise the injurious action of the contending powers there, an open rupture between Upper and Lower Canada seems inevitable; and the eventual annexation of the Western section of the Province, as well as the Red River country, to the United States, would be a highly probable result of that separation. At the same time that this opinion is hazarded, it is submitted to Your Grace, however paradoxical such an assertion may seem in this connection, that the degree of success attained by the experiment of the Canadian Union of 1840, proves conclusively the feasibility and ultimate success of a wider measure, which would comprise the whole of British North America. In Canada were found two races in open hostility towards each other, professing antagonistic religious creeds, and widely differing from each other in customs, laws, traditions, and national characteristics. Yet United Canada has, in a career of twenty years, made such a rapid progress in increase of population, wealth, general prosperity,—has attained, we may say, such a degree of grandeur as would have been entirely impossible had it continued, during that period, two distinct Provinces. The seemingly insurmountable difficulties in the way of a longer continuance in operation of its present Constitution, are not owing to the fact that Upper and Lower Canada are united, but result from certain artificial conditions annexed to the Union Act. It seems difficult to conceive how these difficulties can now be got rid of without doing manifest injustice to either one or the other of the two great divisions of Canada, unless by combining them with the other North American Colonies under a single Colonial Government.

This is probably neither the time, nor the occasion, to enter upon any details as to the particular kind of Union that would be most desirable. The writer will only venture to observe, as an individual opinion, that a Federative Constitution similar to that lately accorded by Imperial Act to New Zealand, dividing the whole United Colonies into a number of Provinces, each with an elective Superintendent and Council to administer and legislate upon cer-