

to avert our thoughts. A forecasting Policy would appear to suggest that provision should be deliberately, though of course unavowedly, made for the peaceful and honorable abdication of a power, which ere long it will be impossible to retain ; and for raising up on the North American Continent a counterpoise to the United States ¹.

In a paper which has been drawn up on this occasion, another general principle is stated in the following terms:—"The British Colonies in North America are fast rising into considerable States, and already are far too powerful to be governed upon any principle but that of deference for the wishes and opinions of the great Body of the inhabitants. The authority of the Mother Country rests altogether upon the respect and voluntary obedience of the colonial subjects."

Finally, the present is an occasion in which inaction is probably the most hazardous policy which could be pursued. To do nothing is indeed easy ; but to determine that nothing shall be done, is impossible. In such a current there is no resting on the Oars : if its force can neither be stemmed nor directed, it will infallibly hurry every thing before it.

Such are the more general views, of which the truth is taken for granted in the following pages. They will be seen to have a direct bearing upon the questions which are now to be considered.

1. This has been in great part brought about, but British connection has still been maintained.