

of the whole number of members of both Houses, and confirmed by a like resolution passed at an interval of not less than three months after the passing of the first resolution.

With these safeguards, it is scarcely possible that a resolution for independence should be carried without a predominant feeling in its favour; and, when that feeling exists, the sooner the parting is effected without soreness or heart-burning the better for both parties.

The only conditions attached to the acquisition of independence by a colony are, first, that all contracts entered into before the separation are to be maintained unimpaired; secondly, that no differential duty is to be laid on imports or exports, to or from any part of her Majesty's dominions; lastly, that no privilege or immunity is to be conferred on the subjects of any foreign nations that is not equally conferred on the subjects of her Majesty. The observance of these conditions is, of course, left to the honour and good faith of the colony.

It is possible, however, that a colony may wish to retain the advantage of a dependency without performing its duties. In that case it will be for the mother-country to take the initiative in the matter of separation. This may be done by her Majesty issuing a proclamation, declaring that a colony is to be independent from and after a time to be named in the proclamation. The colony will thereupon become independent from the date fixed by the proclamation, and the same conditions will attach as if it had presented an address asking for independence.

Surprise may, perhaps, be felt that, in a scheme professing to provide for colonies during the whole period of their existence, from infancy as settlements to maturity as independent states, no mention has

Conclusion—
Observations
on scheme of
union in
British
America.