

sions." The *Corps Diplomatique*, it is sufficiently obvious to every one, is completely closed against him. The Imperial Parliament, the diplomatic body, the army, and the navy being virtually closed against him, the Colonial Bar and the Colonial Legislature, furnish the only narrow avenues by which he can attain what may be called professional distinction. Whether or not, he possesses the particular talents required for success in either of these, he knows that the distinction which that success will confer, is extremely insignificant. A seat in a Provincial Cabinet, or on the Bench of one of the many Courts which share the legal and equitable jurisdiction of the Provinces, affords, in itself, but a small temptation to the man of powerful intellect and lofty aspiration. The British American sees men, in the Mother Country, springing up to the rank of Field Marshals, Admirals, founders of noble houses, Viceroys presiding over countries which are themselves mighty empires—nay, to the position of virtual rulers of the great empire which comprises many of such Viceroyalties. He may be by nature qualified to enter the list in competition with these world-renowned fellow-subjects of his. He is precluded by his position from making the attempt. A few miles from his own home he may see one with whom probably he is personally acquainted, and has always considered as, in every respect, his inferior, raised to the high position of President of the United States. He may not aspire even to the position of Governor of his native Province.

It may be said that it is very unphilosophical in the British Americans to entertain these ambitious feelings. That may be so, but the feelings are entertained nevertheless. They are not a more philosophical people than any other enlightened class of the human family; and it is but natural to suppose that they must experience emotions which affect powerfully all such classes, but more particularly the Anglo-Saxon race. Whatever may be said in condemnation of personal ambition, it will scarcely be denied, that, where that feeling is systematically held in check, or confined within narrow limits, there can be no very long and peace-

ful continuance of what is called *national progress*. There will be either political convulsions, or general sluggishness. Personal ambition, as already shown, is now being thwarted in British America, after both these modes. Two results of this, already too clearly discernible, are, a strong feeling of discontent among the more intellectual and better educated classes, and the splitting up of the whole community into small but violent political factions.

A union of the North American Colonies would remove the cause of this discontent and smother this faction spirit among the colonists. Such a union would throw open an arena vast enough for the desires of the most ambitious—one in which *all* professions would soon find ample scope for action and rewards commensurate with their exertion. The old, narrow, partizan spirit would speedily die out in the new combinations thus formed; and politicians, of whatever name or party, would move with a higher and nobler aim. It would also satisfy the cravings of that feeling more widely extended, and perhaps deeper, than any which has self alone for its object. It would satisfy the cravings of *national* ambition. Men are not quite satisfied with their country, whatever it may be, unless it possesses, in their estimation, some considerable degree of grandeur, or glory, either past, present, or *future*. The accident of birth is rarely, if ever, sufficient in itself to attach a man to his native country—at least, it is insufficient to render him quite satisfied with it. He wants something more to cling to. In contemplating the existence of his country, as in contemplating that of himself individually, he is not satisfied to confine his desires to the isolated *present*, however favorably circumstanced that present may be. He would fain indulge in fond reminiscences of the *past*, or exult in glorious anticipations of the *future*. To the British American, as such, the past is a blank. A consummation of the Provincial Union, would be to him an assurance that the future would not present the same dreary void. It would give his country a name and a standing which would be known and recognised in every corner of the earth; and would make it such a country as he could cling to with affection and regard