

from them, affording an asylum to the oppressed, and to those who may see the advantages of living under a British government, and enjoying its benefits: but unless a free constitution is given, the emigrations from the American States (which, it may be expected, will be very considerable) would only tend to weaken the power of government in that country, and bring about a revolution. It may be the best and the only means to prevent a wish to separate from this country; for with a proper constitution the Canadians might be the happiest people on earth; and independence, that is, a separation from this country, the greatest curse, depriving them of the very great and many advantages they will have over the American States by their being a part of the British empire. It is obvious, that, if added to the Union, they would fall into a much more insignificant state.

In competition with the American States, Canada and Nova Scotia will have many exclusive advantages: We must reserve to our remaining colonies those to which they are entitled. § The inhabitants of Nantucket and the Fishing Coast will migrate to Nova Scotia for the sake of the superior advantages of our fisheries, and from other parts of the American States for different advantages, which British subjects should exclusively have; but if we do not reserve these advantages to our colonies, not content with the irreparable and for-ever-debasing sacrifice of the Loyalists and their property to the rebels, we continue to hold out a premium for rebellion. * But if our remaining colonies are put on a proper footing, nothing could be more destructive to their interest than a separation from us by revolt or conquest.

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would be a sufficient check on them. Europe, now in great measure devoid of fanaticism and priestcraft, and the policy supported by them, might learn liberality in these matters from America. Protestants were often elected of the Assembly in Maryland by Roman Catholics. Perhaps our Ministers cannot risque any, although the most proper measure, that may possibly be unpopular, even with the most narrow-minded, ignorant, and absurd; or may give an opportunity of interference to wild, malicious, or designing men.

§ Every encouragement or advantage given to Canada and Nova Scotia will be given in a great measure to the Loyalists, who may settle there, and who so well deserve them.

* A very different system is necessary for the existence of government. The late ministers seem to have acted on such principles that if civil war or rebellion should arise, it cannot be supposed any reasonable or reasoning man will support Government, till what has been done is expiated. The Provisional Articles tell us every thing is to be left by supporting the Legislature, every thing to be got by rebellion.