

be given to them. Now, it will be acknowledged, that supposing there is no *à priori*, no natural impossibility in any undertaking, that it involves no contradiction of the Laws of Nature, their absence of opposition on the one hand, and all the assistance that can possibly be obtained on the other, will go far to ensure success, if not to secure it. But these would be the very conditions under which British America would come to the work of laying the foundation of its nationality, and raising the glorious structure of its independence. For, effectual opposition could only be offered by England, or the United States. Of England's opposition nothing needs to be said; because, as it will be shewn shortly, England would forward the work with all her might. The only possible opposition that could be offered, must come from the States; it is only with this, then, that we need concern ourselves.

If the States were free to act with the power they possessed before Secession became a fact, it might be an open question, whether they would attempt to prevent the formation of a British American Union, or not. Without asserting it dogmatically, we cannot but believe they would. This, of course, is of no value, but as a mere opinion, although it is one shared in by many; but be it as it may, we need not trouble ourselves with the question, as we only have to deal with the States as they are, and not as they were; without stopping then to inquire what they would attempt, it will be sufficient to see what they could effect, supposing them to determine to intervene.

Were the Union still compact, and its resources untouched, there can be little doubt, that even if aided by all the might of England, British America would be cruelly tried in an effort to establish a Union, even of a democratical kind, much more a monarchical one, if the States put forth all their strength in opposition. But now they cannot do this. No longer has British America on her only frontiers an united people, possessing resources nearly, perhaps quite, equal to those of England, and superior to those of any other State; a people proudly conscious of its strength, and longing to measure it with that of the Mistress of the Seas for the openly avowed purpose of annexing Canada. Rent and shattered by civil war, now no longer a terror to any but itself, one half of the late Union hails French intervention in Mexico with acclamation, while the other dares not utter a word in complaint, though the Monroe doctrine is scorned and set at naught by a European government. The Union, as one of the first-rate powers of the world, is a thing of the past; and though the two or three, or more States, that will be formed out of its several fragments, will still be powerful, and able to hold their own against all comers, yet their day of dictation is over, and the British American Provinces, aided by England, can now form themselves into a Republic, (if it be possible that democratic institutions can still find favour in their