

the average Englishman may nerve himself to bestow upon a work which concerns itself mainly with well-worn matters of bygone colonial history.

With reference to the title of this book, it may be well at once to proffer the explanation that, in my meaning, the 'Bonds of Disunion' of which I treat are to be taken as expressive of those political measures for the government of our Colonies which, while intended to weld the empire into one harmonious whole, whereof each part should derive its laws from a common centre, were, and under any circumstances would be, so many centrifugal forces tending to disunion between England and her Colonies.

Every now and again we are regaled with some elaborated scheme of quasi-legislative union between Great Britain and her Colonies wherever situate. We are told of the formidable front which would be presented to the universe by the vast Imperial Federation thus formed; of the immeasurable benefits that would be conferred by it on a world prone to disordered dreams of wild ambition; of the millennium of peace and prosperity such union would inaugurate, and of the boundless authority the federated empire might exercise and claim. Utopian theories these—wild, feverish, vague, high-sounding, and raised on the flimsy foundation of unreasoning fancy. To those who lend themselves to the advocacy of such schemes, numbers—the number of square miles, the number of people to be confederated—are everything. The greater the number brought under the influence of a central legislative body at half the globe's distance from those colonies most specially sought to be included in the happy union, the greater is to be the might, the more real and overwhelming the power, of the united whole. The individual dispositions, wants, jealousies, and ambitions of particular colonies, of individual members of colonial populations, are to the Federalists considerations to be advanced only in order to be dismissed as unworthy of the high dignity they claim for their loftiness of view. And yet it is just those very individual whims, caprices, or call them by what names you will, that must ever form the insuper-