

"The first paper" he says (1) "was written at a time when the subject was entirely new; scarce ever brought forward to consideration here in *England*; and when authentic accounts of the true state of the country, as possessed by the English and French were with great difficulty, if at all, to be obtained; and I may venture to say, utterly unknown to our military."

In his dedication to his papers which he first published in 1764, he freely attributes the source of his ideas to the men of experience whom he met at the Convention of 1754. (2)

"When I had an opportunity of conversing with and knowing the sentiments of, the commissioners of the several Provinces in North America convened at Albany; of learning from their experience and judgment, the actual state of the American business and interest; of hearing amongst them the grounds and reasons of that American union which they had under deliberation, and transmitted the plan of to England; I then conceived the idea and saw the necessity of a general British union. I then first mentioned my sentiment on this subject to several of those commissioners and at the same time first proposed my consideration of a general plan of a British union."

(1) See his appendix No. VII.

(2) Dedication P. XIII of *The Administration of the British Colonies*; By Thomas Pownall, late Governor, Captain-General, Commander in chief and Vice Admiral of His Majesty's Provinces of Massachusetts and South Carolina, and Lieutenant Governor of New Jersey. London, first edition 1764.