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## The Confederation Idea on the North American Continent.

BY GEORGE JOHNSON.

On the 3rd June, 1780, a man of note, versed in public affairs, died in a house in New Bond Street, London. He was an exile from the land of his birth.

At the moment of his death London was at the mercy of the mob in the Gordon riots. The city was on fire in many places. A drunken multitude murdered right and left, laying violent hands upon the noblest of the land.

The exile's funeral passed on its way through smoke and uproar that might easily have been regarded as the final crash of the English social structure.

In his dying moments an event, somewhat similar to the Gordon riots, in his own personal experience may have flashed across his mind.

In the Boston State House there lies a manuscript which 131 years ago was thrown into a muddy street by a mob sacking a mansion, its leaves stained from their all-night soaking. The manuscript is a portion of Thomas Hutchinson's "History of Massachusetts Bay."

The author, on the night of the 26th August, 1765, received every possible mark of contumely at the hands of this mob. His dwelling was attacked and everything in it destroyed. The approach of daylight alone prevented the total demolition of a noble colonial mansion.

The next day the hunted man appeared at the Court-House and addressed his brother judges: "Gentlemen," said he, "there not being a quorum of the Court without me, I am obliged to appear. Some apology is necessary for my dress. Indeed, I have no other. Destitute of everything, no other shirt, no other garment but what I have on, and not one of my family in a better condition than myself. The distress of a whole family around me, young and tender infants hanging about me, is infinitely more insupportable than what I feel for myself, though I am obliged to borrow part of this clothing."

The man who experienced such treatment at the hands of a Boston mob, was at the time Chief Justice of the Province of Massachusetts, the Lieut.-Governor of the Province, and the President of the Council. He has rendered great service to the Colony on many occasions. He was a born king of men.

John Adams referred to him thirty years after his death: "If I was the witch of Endor I would wake the ghost of Hutchinson and give him absolute power over the currency of the United States and every part of it. . . . As little as I revere his memory I will acknowledge that he understood the subject of Coin and