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UNION OF THE COLONIES OF BRITISH  
NORTH AMERICA.

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The subject of a political union of the British North American Colonies has engrossed so large a share of attention, among the people of the Provinces themselves, that little could now be said upon the desirability of such a union, which would be new to them. A detailed scheme for a Union of the North American Colonies was drawn up by the late Hon. Richard John Uniacke, and submitted to the Imperial Cabinet, about the commencement of the present century. A similar scheme was proposed by the late Chief Justice Sewell of Quebec, in 1814; and was warmly advocated by His Royal Highness the late Duke of Kent. Since then it has been strongly urged upon the Imperial Government by that distinguished statesman, the late Earl of Durham; it has been highly recommended by nearly every author of respectable reputation who has published his views upon British America; it has been extensively discussed by the provincial press, and by the people, at their own fire-sides; it has been spoken of, in the highest terms, on the floors of the Canadian Parliament; and, in the House of Assembly of Nova Scotia, a movement—in which the “leaders” of the Government, and the opposition, of the day, cordially joined—has been made to carry it into effect. This being the case, the writer, in advocating the necessity for such a union can do little more than repeat what has been

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already said, and give a brief summary of the reasons why this idea of *union* has taken so firm a hold upon the British American mind.

The principal of these reasons is to be found in *the relation which the North American Colonies bear to all the rest of the world.* Among the natives of those Provinces, there is that craving after nationality which is inseparable from the minds of a free people in whom the want is unsatisfied. The peculiar situation of the British Americans makes them feel this want in an unusual degree. Situated between Great Britain, on the one hand, and the United States of America, on the other, they are incessantly tantalized by the might and glory of these, the two greatest nations on earth. They know and they feel that British America too, is capable of taking and maintaining, in the estimation of the world, an honorable national rank, beside these elder powers; but is prevented from doing so by her anomalous position. All the institutions of both Great Britain and the United States, are on a grand and magnificent scale. None of those belonging to the Provinces are so; because, from their disconnected position, they cannot unitedly carry out any great work, and no one of them is capable of doing so alone. The dissatisfaction which this engenders, is heightened by the comparisons provoked by the vicinity of their insignificant institutions to those of their more distinguished neighbors.

The British American, on looking across the Southern frontier of his native land, sees a people, distinct but speaking the same