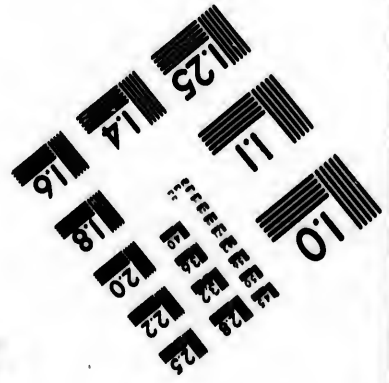
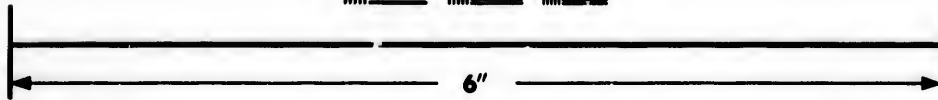
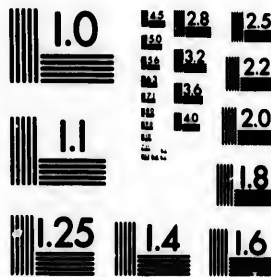


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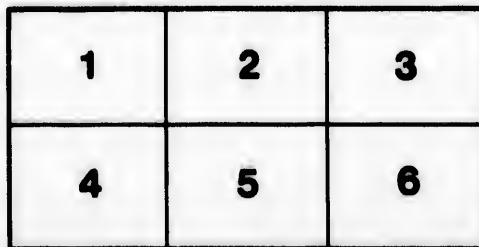
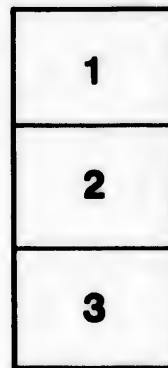
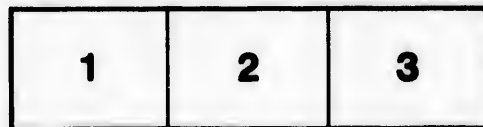
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**FEDERATIVE UNION**

*The Honorable*  
*William Morris*  
*Secretary.* OF THE *in Ontario*

**BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN  
PROVINCES.**

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**BY HENRY SHERWOOD.**

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**TORONTO:**  
**HUGH SCOBIE, ADELAIDE BUILDINGS, KING STREET.**

**1850.**

F1020  
1850S

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**FEDERATIVE UNION**  
**OF THE**  
**BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN PROVINCES.**

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TO THE EDITOR OF THE BRITISH COLONIST.

SIR,—I beg leave, through the medium of your paper, in the present peculiar position of our affairs, to propose for the consideration of the people, a scheme for a Federative Union of all the British North American Colonies; by means of which a more satisfactory arrangement of our political condition may be expected. The views I entertain upon this important subject are by no means new, so far as regards myself; for upon reference to the Journals of the House of Assembly of Upper Canada so far back as February in the year 1838, it will be seen that a similar project is recommended in general terms, in a Report made by me as Chairman of a Committee, upon the then political state of the Province. Some ten or twelve years' experience since then, however, has convinced me of the necessity of introducing the elective principle to a greater extent into our institutions than I at that time thought was compatible with our form of Government. But I am now satisfied that the further local self-government can be safely and consistently extended in these Colonies, the more closely will our ties of connection

with the parent state be cemented. All our institutions and laws are founded upon the broad principles of real and substantial freedom.

I would then, in the first place, suggest, that a definite and explicit constitution for a Federative Government, to be established in these British Provinces, be prepared by the British Government, and be given to us under the sanction and authority of an act of the Imperial Parliament, which before coming into force, however, should be submitted to the Provinces respectively for their adoption, in such manner as may be agreed upon by all parties concerned.

The result of such a union will, in my opinion, be the permanent establishment of British ascendancy throughout the whole of Her Majesty's North American Possessions. The inhabitants of these Colonies are loyal; and they are so, not merely from the abstract sentiment of loyalty, or from interest, but because they are convinced that the stability of their institutions can be best secured by maintaining the connection with the mother country. By such a union, these extensive Colonies would be enabled so to increase and distribute their resources for the benefit of all, that the abundance and facilities of national wealth would lead to, and advance their common interests, and place them at once on a level with many powerful nations.

On this federation being formed, our beloved Queen could not give her loyal and devoted subjects in these remote parts of Her dominions, more grateful evidence of Her Majesty's desire to perpetuate their allegiance, than by incorporating in Her Royal Title the distinct claim of sovereignty over these Her Majesty's possessions. Such an act of condescension and grace, would produce an important effect throughout the whole extent of the North American Continent.

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In such case, the title of the person to be appointed by Her Majesty as Her Representative to the Federal Government, should be that of "Vice-Roy"; and combined with integrity and talent, such as will at once command confidence and respect, he should also be possessed of high rank and distinction as a public man; and he being unquestionably recognized as an Imperial Functionary, charged with the protection of national interests, and the official organ of communication between the Parent State and the Colonies, his salary should be fixed by Her Majesty, and paid out of the Treasury of the United Kingdom—and in him the supreme executive power, under the federative constitution, should be vested.

The Federative Legislature should consist of the "Vice-Roy," to be appointed by Her Majesty as aforesaid, and two Chambers, both of which should be elective.

It has been justly and ably remarked on more occasions than one, that the construction of the Legislative Council as it at present exists in Canada is decidedly wrong. It is inconsistent with the harmonious working of the present mode of Government and its useful influence as a Legislative Body. With a majority created by the Government of the day for securing party measures, it is, for most essential purposes, but the subservient instrument of the Provincial Government. The same majority upon a change of parties would make it an obstructive body, opposed to the existing administration and the wishes of the people as expressed by their representatives in Parliament. The most efficient remedy, therefore, is to be found in the election of that chamber by the people for a limited period—the members going out by sections, periodically. Thus this body would be brought nearer to the feelings, and would more perfectly reflect the opinions, of the country; while the periodical elections would enable the

people to correct the inconveniences that occasionally might arise from its composition by an infusion of new members.

The Legislature thus constituted should have power to legislate on all questions connected with the *Public Domain*, on all questions of *trade and commerce and postal arrangements*—the construction of *public canals and railroads* running through more than one Province—the representation as affects the federative government generally, including the manner in which the elective franchise is to be exercised, and all such other matters as necessarily concern the interests of more than one or of all the Provinces. In furtherance of this plan, and as a necessary condition, a constitution must be granted to each of the Provinces comprising the Federation, by an act of the Imperial Parliament. Each to have a Legislature consisting of a Governor to be appointed by the "Vice-Roy," subject to the approval of the second chamber or senate of the Federative Government to be elected as aforesaid, or to be elected by the people, and of two chambers also to be both elective.

Each Provincial Legislature to exercise powers limited to the adoption of laws for their local and domestic governments respectively.

In connection with this plan, I would further suggest that the constitution of the Federative Government should provide for the erection of a Superior Court, to be called the "Supreme Court of the United Provinces," to consist of the Chief Justice of each of the Superior Courts of Law in the respective Provinces, to have power to hear and determine, and finally to adjudicate upon, all objections which may at any time be raised against the constitutionality of any law to be passed by the Federative or Provincial Legislatures, respectively, possessing such powers and jurisdiction, for in-

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stance, as the Supreme Court of the United States at Washington now possesses and exercises, under the constitution of that country.

Your obedient servant,

HENRY SHERWOOD.

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TO THE EDITOR OF THE BRITISH COLONIST.

Toronto, November 4, 1850.

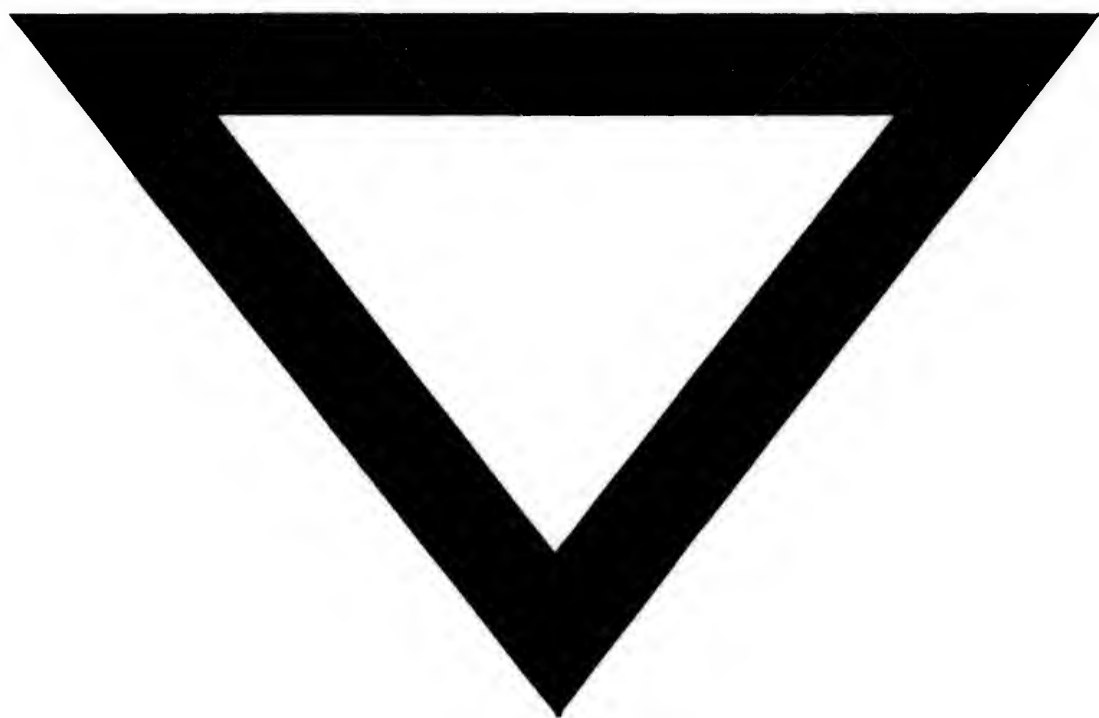
SIR,—Doubts seem to have arisen in the minds of some persons as to my meaning in reference to a portion of the plan for the Federative Union of the British North American Colonies, suggested in my letter to you of last week, which I now take the liberty of explaining. It is thought I intended, in the event of the proposed Federation being formed, that the union between Upper and Lower Canada should nevertheless continue as at present. Such was not my intention. Upon the proposed Federation taking place, the union between the two Canadas should at once be dissolved, and these Provinces should be restored to the same position which they respectively held before that period; except, indeed, it may be thought prudent so to extend the boundaries of Upper Canada as to include in it the eastern townships of Lower Canada, which are almost entirely settled by inhabitants of British origin.

Another great advantage to be derived from the Federation I propose, and which I did not mention in my hastily-written

letter, is, that by such an arrangement a vaster and more extensive field than has heretofore existed, would be opened for the genius and talents of the youth of these Provinces. Hitherto the exertions of public men have been confined within the limits of contracted localities; but now, as every avenue of learning is thrown open to the young men of the country, and the opportunity of obtaining a liberal education is far greater than it was a few years ago, a more extended stage for action should be afforded to them. The plan I propose offers that great advantage, and I venture to predict, in the event of its being carried out, that in the course of a very few years statesmen will spring up in British North America who would be considered an honour and a credit to any country.

Your obedient Servant,

**HENRY SHERWOOD.**



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