

colonies, settlements and other extraneous parts, but as a grand marine dominion, consisting of our possessions in the Atlantic and in America, united into a one empire, into a one centre where the seat of government is.'<sup>1</sup> The Preface to the second part of his work was dated November 1774, and in this volume he wrote that 'A British union of all the British Dominions, by admitting the American colonies into Parliament, has been now for near twenty years repeatedly recommended to this country by those who knew the circumstances of both countries as they stood related to and connected with each other.'<sup>2</sup> 'I very seriously recommended such a British union,' he wrote on an earlier page, 'as the only sure means which would prevent the certain alternative of an American union distinct from and independent of Great Britain.'<sup>3</sup> Edmund Burke ridiculed any plan which would have involved holding elections through the length and breadth of great spaces on the other side of the Atlantic and transporting the elected members across the ocean to sit in a House of Commons in London as wholly impracticable, if only on account of the time which must have been spent in the process; and impracticable it must surely have proved, had it been put to the test, in the eighteenth century. Nor in the later generations of the Empire, though difficulties of distance have been and are being largely removed, has colonial representation in the House of Commons of the Mother Country ever commended itself, except

<sup>1</sup> *The Administration of the British Colonies*, Part I (fifth edition, 1774), p. 10.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, Part II (1774), p. 82.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 8.