The American Union a Failure

I am well aware, Mr. President and fellow members, that I have chosen for my theme a subject which grates harshly on the ear of my young and ardent hearers, and would apologize, if I thought that my reasoning and arguments would influence your opinions in the least, either in regard to the stability of our Republic or lessen your estimation of the deep debt of gratitude we owe its founders or weaken your efforts in preserving untarnished the Constitution of our Fathers.

But since I know that its only effect will be to direct your attention to some of the most objectional features of our government, and cause them thereby receive your serious attention and consideration, I will, without fear of Censure on your part, candidly declare