

Brunswick and Ontario. By the beginning of the present century there were in all Canada only one hundred and eighty thousand souls, the majority of whom were French Canadians. Representative institutions were now conceded to the provinces, and a considerable commerce grew up in the most populous centres; but nevertheless the growth of the population for forty years was small when compared with that of the United States. The political difficulties of the country, especially in Lower Canada, and the general poverty of the mass of the people, then without any large markets or speedy means of inter-communication, prevented anything like a considerable immigration. Nevertheless the population of Canada reached at least a million and a quarter by 1840, which was the turning point in the history of the political as well as the material development of the provinces. By 1860 the total population of Canada had nearly trebled, as there was a large influx of immigrants from Ireland and Great Britain between 1845 and 1860. The same ratio of increase has not been kept up since that time, chiefly on account of the preference given by European emigrants to the United States, and the exodus of many Canadians year after year to the manufacturing towns of that country. Of late this Canadian migration appears to have been diminishing, and with the prospects of settlement in the North West, the Census of 1890 is likely to present figures calculated to encourage Canadians in the future of their country.

The ancestors of the French Canadian race which now forms so large a proportion of the population of Canada, and exercises so much influence on its political and social conditions, came chiefly from Normandy and Brittany. These people are very sociable in their habits and fairly industrious, although slow to adopt improvements and adapt themselves to the new order of things. A great many of them are employed in the lumber and manufacturing industries of the country. Preferring such occupations to agricultural pursuits, large numbers have for many years sought employment in the manufactories of New England, especially in the cities of Fall River, Holyoke and Lowell. They are devout Roman Catholics, and in no other country of the world do the priests exercise greater influence than in the province of Quebec. The humblest village is built around a large stone church, and wherever you go you see the evidences of the religious devotion of the people in the names of the settlements, and in the fine conventual and other institutions, controlled by the priests and religious orders. Under an ordinary condition of things the French Canadians are a well disposed,