

## PROVINCE OF CANADA.

That portion of the Continent of America which is now called Canada, was discovered seven years after the discovery of America, by John & Sebastian Cabot. It subsequently came into the possession of the French, who governed the country by Commanders, Governors, and Presidents, till the year 1759. In that year, under Mr. Pitt's administration, the French territories in America were attacked, and the attempt to conquer Canada was at last successful. It was in this struggle that General Wolfe lost his life, and gained to the British the American Gibraltar—Quebec—which has ever since remained in their possession. On the 8th of September, 1760, the capitulation which transferred Canada from the Gulf of St. Lawrence to the unknown West was signed—the treaty of Paris, by which Canada was formally ceded to the British Crown, was signed on the 10th of Feb., 1763. From the overthrow of the French dominion in Canada, to the division of the Province into Upper and Lower sections, the colony experienced many vicissitudes—many petty quarrels arose between the old French colonists and the new settlers of British origin. In 1774 a new order of things was instituted by the British Government, having for its object the tranquilization of the French and the encouragement of British emigration. In the same year an act was passed by which the limits of the Province were greatly extended, and made to include a large portion of what is now the United States, as far as the Mississippi. All this was lost during the revolutionary war between Britain and her thirteen colonies. During this struggle Canada refused to co-operate with the insurgents. Consequent upon this refusal the revolutionists determined upon a double invasion of Canada, by way of Lake Champlain and the Kennebec River. In 1776 the Province was evacuated, and no further attempt was conceived against Canada. The war between Britain and her colonies was brought to a close in Feb. 20th, 1783, at which time the treaty of Versailles was signed, recognizing the independence of that nation. From that time Canada began to prosper, retarded only by the difference of British and French habits customs, and notions of Government, which at last became so serious as to lead to the passing of the "Constitutional act of 1791;" by which act the Province of Quebec was divided into Upper and Lower Canada.

Canada now found herself in possession of the fourth form of Government within the short space of thirty-two years. From 1770 to 1773 she was ruled by martial law; from 1773 to 1774 a tyrannical military government prevailed; from 1774 to 1791 a civil government of the most despotic cast was established; and in 1792 a new constitution was introduced, establishing freedom of election and responsibility to the people.

On the 17th of December, 1792, the first Upper Canadian Parliament was convened at Niagara. By an act of this Parliament, (1792) the names of the four Upper Canada Districts were changed into Eastern, Midland, Home, and