

OUR PROVINCES v. THE STATES.—It is often said that the New England States are growing faster than our Provinces are. This is not the fact. Farming in New England is rapidly following New England fishing and ship-building into the limbo of the departed. People of an enquiring mind have turned to those huge volumes containing the results of the Tenth Census of the United States, and have therefrom adduced these suggestive facts:—

1. The agricultural districts of New England are practically stationary in population, having only increased 9 per cent. in thirty years, as compared with an increase of 62 per cent. by the Maritime Provinces in the same period.

2. The total value of the farms of New England declined 5 per cent. between 1870 and 1880, and in some of the States the decrease was as great as 20 per cent.

3. There was actually less land under cultivation in New England in 1880 than in 1870.

4. The condition of the farmers of New York is quite as bad as the condition of the farmers of New England.

The *St. John Sun* shows that New Brunswick has been making more steady and rapid progress in wealth and population than the State of Maine. In ten years New Brunswick shows four times the increase shewn by Maine.

CANADA.

The prospects of the country were never so bright as they are at the present hour. Our export trade has increased during the year by over four million dollars, while our imports have advanced by more than double that sum over the previous year. The reports from the North-West are excellent, and phenomenal crops are said to be in order. Then we see Montreal and Toronto rapidly increasing in population and prospering in trade. Look where we may, the prospect is good, and the cheerful tone of public opinion is an additional assurance that Canada is moving in the right direction. So be it always.

HOW MUCH CANADA DRINKS.—According to the Dominion Government's reports, the quantity of liquor consumed in Canada during 1885-6 was three gallons per head. In Ontario, with a good license law and one county under Scott Act, the consumption was $4\frac{1}{2}$ gallons. Quebec, which has a larger number of parishes, under partial prohibition, consumed $3\frac{1}{2}$ gallons. In Manitoba and N. W., the latter being under prohibition, the consumption was $2\frac{1}{2}$ per head. New Brunswick, having 10 out of 18 counties under Scott Act, only con-

sumed $1\frac{1}{2}$ gallons. Nova Scotia, with larger proportion of Scott Act counties, $1\frac{1}{2}$ gallons per head; and in P. E. I., which is altogether under Scott Act, less than $\frac{2}{3}$ of a gallon was consumed per head. The figures showed that the consumption of liquor decreased in the same ratio as the Scott Act was adopted.

REV. JAMES BARCLAY, A. M.

THE REV. JAMES BARCLAY is a gentleman justly beloved as a Christian minister and looked up to as a ripe scholar. It was hard to find any one who could fitly wear the mantle laid aside by the venerable and learned Dr. Jenkins, "Bishop of the Presbyterians," but the trustees of St. Paul's Church were most happy in their selection of his successor. Mr. Barclay was in one part of his career attached to the historic Church of St. Cuthbert, Edinburgh, after having graduated at Glasgow University, where he passed most brilliantly, taking prize after prize,—his name, in fact, being seen on every list of honors published by the University. The talents of the reverend gentleman are exhibited very clearly in the pulpit, his sermons being masterpieces of logic and truth forcibly applied. His administrative ability is also of a high class. Since the commencement of his ministrations at St. Paul's in the year 1883, the Church and congregation have shown signs of increased activity and life. Through Mr. Barclay's efforts, St. Paul's has now a missionary in India; and other church works, including the Victoria Mission, Point St. Charles, are correspondingly earnest, and the regular communicants number upwards of 500. Mr. Barclay's fame as a preacher and a successful minister has spread over the globe, and his name is familiar wherever the Presbyterian Church has sway. Very recently he received a unanimous call from a large and important Church in Australia which offered a salary equal to that he now receives, more than \$7000 a year with the addition of a large and comfortable manse. He however declined the offer, preferring to remain in his present cure, where he has made such host of friends and is accomplishing so good a work. Her Majesty the Queen has a great liking for the pulpit utterances of the reverend gentleman, and she has on more than one occasion commanded his presence, one of them being only last year, when in obedience to his sovereign's call he crossed the Atlantic and delivered a sermon noted at the time in the press as a very brilliant effort. Mr. Barclay in his sermons impressed on his