

of islanders, harassed with domestic perplexities and jealously supervised by the great continental Powers. Viewed from an impartial standpoint, dominion in the New World was the desert if not the right of the thriving, polished and consolidated nation which so brilliantly reflected the glories of Ancient Rome in the old province of Gaul and the thunder of hostile cannon at Port Royal or Quebec proclaimed that this, at least, the Gaul contemplated. With jealous eyes he regarded the progress of the English Atlantic colonies east of the Allegheny Hills, and carried on by that enthusiasm, if imprudence, which reappeared in the Revolution, and First Empire, penetrated to the Lakes, descended the Mississippi to the Mexican Gulf, and in the long chain of forts stretching from Nova Scotia to Louisiana via the Lakes, actually restricted us to the Allegheny region. In this the historical student cannot fail to remark the over-reaching ambition of an imaginative race of statesmen unsupported by any pronounced national desire to colonize and uninfluenced by the steady principles which originate in a sober perception of the attributes or destinies of the mother land. Upon the other hand, the modest colonies of the English were erected and cautiously enlarged under the influence of the natural expansion of concentrated energies, and instead of long, unprotected frontiers, and an immense domain, disgraced by sanguinary feuds, oppression, extortion and exposed to hostile ravages, New England offered a strong if small theatre for the national instinct of colonization. Thus in the New as well as in the Old World, the rival nations stood their trial, and by the adoption of sound, industrious habits, generous laws and well sustained effort, England was marked out as the dominant nation. A review of these circumstances in the light of historical events

makes it clear to the student that the English were early destined as the fittest in the survival of races. No doubt this was not revealed to our ancestors, but in the light of the ages it is clear enough. As far as our ancestors were concerned it is no injustice to them to suppose that they were merely influenced by a desire to punish French aggression and rid themselves of the presence of an hereditary rival rather than the acquisition of territory for the sustenance of a prospective prosperity. Upon us, however, they have bequeathed the onus of justifying the carnage at Quebec, as well as their illogical antipathy against all things French upon American soil. As we stand at the close of the century and examine the condition of Great Britain generally, with its overflowing populations of restless eager empire-builders, and glance for a moment at the dwindling numbers of the French in Europe, we can realize the subtleness of the justification of the annihilation of French rule in Canada, which Providence has prepared for us. We and our ancestors are on trial, and if we English neglect Canada in the stern face of national need, we veto the actions of our predecessors and render their labor in Canada largely vain. But we do not intend to further neglect Canada. We have poured our treasures and energies into the volcanic Republics of the Southern Cross, nursed, petted and fondled the United States into nationality and prosperity, laid the foundation of empire in Africa, and spoiled the sober progress of Australasia with adulation, caresses and unearned gold. In spite of this, however, the race remains at home, dissatisfied, groping about vaguely for the Canaan of which their acuter instincts whisper. The new land to satisfy and invite must reproduce the conditions of the Old, and such is Canada north of the initial parallel—