

ment by means of transportation routes. Were the people of the United States, putting their number at sixty-five millions or thirteen times ours, to launch out to-morrow for internal improvements in the same lavish manner the outlay would exceed their war debt at its highest notch.

4.—The Reality.

No one would attempt to deny that there has been a very considerable measure of growth and expansion in Canada. A young community which should remain stationary would be in the preliminary stages of atrophy. But our rate of progress has been painfully slow. De Tocqueville described the contrast which existed in his day between the slave States and the free States across the line in these words :

"The traveller who floats down the current of the Ohio to the point where that river joins the Mississippi, may be said to sail between liberty and slavery, and he needs only to look around him in order to decide in an instant which is the more favorable to humanity. On the southern bank of the river the population is thinly scattered ; from time to time one descries a gang of slaves at work, going with indolent air over the half desert fields ; the primeval forest unceasingly reappears ; one would think that the people were asleep ; man seems to be idle, nature alone offers a picture of activity and life. From the northern bank, on the contrary, there arises the busy hum of industry which is heard afar off ; the fields abound with rich harvests ; comfortable homes indicate the taste and care of the laborer ; prosperity is seen on all sides ; man appears to be rich and content."

Canadians are not in bondage, yet, with a few verbal changes, this description would apply fairly well to the contrast between the Canadian and the American sides of the international boundary from ocean to ocean. It is true the United States had the start of us, although not to any great extent of French Canada ; but surely there must be some other reason for the profound difference between our country and theirs in the matter of activity, development and wealth. The census returns furnish the explanation in part. We are unable to retain our population. The blue books show that between 1881 and 1891 over 800,000 persons from Europe settled in Canada. Nevertheless the population in those ten years increased only 500,000 ; in other words, we lost through emigration to the United States a multitude equal in number to the whole natural increase in the decade plus 300,000

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