

For the purpose of showing the necessity for such arrangements, the periods in the history of the Provinces and Dominion may be thus divided:—

I. CANADA UNDER FRENCH RULE.—Included under this head, are the documents relating to Nouvelle France, and those relative to the discoveries made by the French explorers in the west, &c. The works of Parkman, which are in the Department, are of great historical value, and they are still more so from the help they afford in the inquiry as to the sources from which documents can be obtained. Copies of the *Journal* as well as the *Relations des Jesuites*, the works of Champlain, the *Edits et Ordonnances* and others throw light on this period of history, but the great bulk of the papers must be obtained from the French Archives. The works of French writers on Canadian history are still wanting.

II. PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.—1. From the cession of Great Britain down to 1791, when the old Province of Quebec was divided into Upper and Lower Canada; 2. Lower Canada from 1791 to 1841, when the two Provinces were reunited into the Province of Canada; 3. From 1841 to 1867 (the date of Confederation) in as far as relates to the special affairs of Canada East; 4. Since Confederation, when the old name—the Province of Quebec—was resumed.

III. PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.—1. The settlement, &c. of the upper part of the Province of Quebec, from the cession to 1791; 2. Upper Canada from 1791 to 1841, the date of reunion; 3. From 1841 to 1867, in as far as relates to the special affairs of Canada West; 4. Since Confederation, when it was called the Province of Ontario.

IV. PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA.—From the discovery of this Province, about 1497 or 1498, under the commission given to Cabot and his sons by Henry VII of England in 1496, no real attempts at settlement were made for upwards of a century. Shortly after the defeat by the Virginians of the attempted French settlement by De Monts (1604-1613), the grant to Sir William Alexander, referred to in my last Report, was made (1621). A collection of documents relating to this last transaction is among the Archives, but the general history of the Province down to 1713 must be looked for among the Archives of London and Paris, it having repeatedly changed owners during that period. Since its final cession to Great Britain, however, in 1713, there are certain periods which may be distinctly indicated for the present purpose. 1. From 1713 to 1758, when a constitution was granted; 2. From 1758 to 1770, when Prince Edward Island (then St. John's Island) was separated; 3. From 1770 to 1784, when New Brunswick was separated; 4. From 1784 to 1848, when responsible Government was granted; 5. From 1848 to 1867, the date of Confederation; 7. From Confederation onwards.

V. PROVINCE OF NEW BRUNSWICK.—The early history of this Province is included in that of Nova Scotia down to 1784. The periods as a separate Province are: 1. From 1784 down to 1848, when responsible Government was granted. This period includes the settlement of the U. E. Loyalists; 2. From 1848 to 1867, the date of Confederation; 3. From Confederation onwards.

VI. PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND (St. John's Island till 1800).—1. Under French rule to 1763, including the settlements of the Acadians, after their expulsion from Nova Scotia; 2. From 1763, the date of its cession to Great Britain, when it was placed under the Government of Nova Scotia, to 1770, when it was established as a separate province; 3. From 1770 to 1851, the date of responsible Government; 4. From 1851 to 1873, the date of admission into the Dominion; 5. From 1873 onwards.

VII. BRITISH COLUMBIA, including therein Vancouver's Island.—1. Under the rule of the Hudson's Bay Company; 2. From 1858, when it was erected into a Government till 1866, when it was consolidated with Vancouver's Island; 3. Vancouver's Island from 1859, when it was erected into a Government, till 1866, when it was consolidated with British Columbia; 4. From 1866 to 1871, when it was admitted into the Dominion; 5. From its admission onwards.

VIII. THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES.—1. Under the rule of the Hudson Bay Company, down to 1870, the date when they were transferred to the Dominion. In this period are included the transactions of the rival fur and trading companies; 2. From the date of transfer onwards.