



HISTORY OF THE BRITISH COLONIES.

POSSESSIONS IN NORTH AMERICA.

CHAPTER I.

LOWER CANADA.

GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION AND AREA—GENERAL HISTORY—PHYSICAL ASPECT—MOUNTAINS, RIVERS, AND LAKES—GEOLOGY—CLIMATE—POPULATION—TERRITORIAL DIVISIONS—ANIMAL, VEGETABLE AND MINERAL KINGDOMS—STAPLE PRODUCE—REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE—GENERAL COMMERCE—IMPORTS AND EXPORTS—MONETARY SYSTEM—FORM OF GOVERNMENT—SOCIAL STATE—RELIGION, EDUCATION AND THE PRESS—MILITARY DEFENCE—VALUE OF PROPERTY—PRESENT CONDITION AND FUTURE PROSPECTS, &c.

GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION.—The vast, fertile and important section of the British empire termed *Canada*,* is bounded on the E. by the Atlantic Ocean, the Gulf of St. Lawrence and a part of the Labrador coast, (which is separated by the Straits of Belleisle from the island of Newfoundland,)—on the N. by the Hudson Bay territories,—on the W. by the Pacific Ocean,—and on the S. by the United States, by part of New Brunswick and by the unexplored territories of the Indians. The division line on the S. from the grand portage on Lake

* The term *Canada* is supposed to be derived from the Indian word *Kanata*, signifying a collection of huts, and which the early European discoverers mistook for the name of the country.