

Canada after the proposed division of the Province of Canada, and these resolutions were afterwards embodied in the British North America Act. The writ of *Habeas Corpus* was suspended for a year, and several other useful measures passed, and the last session of the Province of Canada was brought to a close on the fifteenth of August. "Thus passed away in calm a constitution which, born in strife and turmoil, sprung from mal-administration and rebellion—forced upon a reluctant Province (the oldest and at the time the most important section of the Union), without consulting its people, and against the wishes of the majority of its inhabitants—had, nevertheless, during twenty-five years of unexampled prosperity and material progress, laid the foundation deep and strong of true Constitutional liberty, had removed the asperities of race, and taught the united descendants of France and England that the true source of their future greatness and power on this continent would lie in a mutual regard for each other's rights, a mutual forbearance for each other's prejudices, and a generous, strong, conjoint effort towards consolidating their extensive territories, and developing their vast resources under one government and one flag." *

10.—A wild attempt was made by some politicians in the United States, who feared to see a strong Confederation growing up in Canada, to sow the seeds of discord by introducing in the American House of Representatives a bill providing for the admission of Canada and the Maritime Provinces into the Union as four States; but the people of Canada only laughed at the idea, and the scheme failed utterly. The summer and fall were not marked with any very noticeable features, except that Quebec was again visited by a terrible fire, which swept away twenty-one hundred houses, and left nearly twenty thousand persons homeless and destitute. The whole of St. Roch suburb and most of St. Sauveur were destroyed, and the burnt district covered a space about one mile long by half a mile wide. The catas-

Twenty thousand persons burnt out at Quebec. Trial of the Fenians. Confederation.

* Gray's Confederation of Canada.

trophe called forth, as usual, the hearty sympathy and generous assistance of all the cities and towns in Canada, and considerable help was sent from England and other countries; but Quebec has never thoroughly recovered from the successive devastations of the fire fiend, added to the removal of the seat of government, and the loss of her trade by the rapid growth of Montreal, as the deepening of the channel through Lake St. Peter has allowed the largest ocean-going vessels to come up to the head of navigation, and "the ancient capital" has gradually fallen behind the other Canadian towns during the past few years. In October the trial of the Fenians took place at Toronto, and resulted in the discharge of all but a few of the ringleaders, the grand jury returning "no bill" against them. The leaders were, however, tried and condemned to be hung, but their sentences were afterwards commuted to imprisonment. Immediately after the prorogation of Parliament the governor-general and a deputation proceeded to England to complete the necessary arrangements for Confederation, an account of which mission we have already given in chapter 102; and on the first day of July, 1867,—just ten years from the day on which we write these lines,—the Dominion of Canada was born, amid the universal rejoicing of a happy people, whose faith that in union they would find strength, peace, and prosperity, has not been betrayed by an experience of ten years. In concluding this chapter we give, as usual, the names of the governors and administrators of the Province of Canada:

Baron Sydenham and Toronto,	1841.
Gen. Sir R. Jackson, Adm.,	1841.
Sir Charles Bagot,	1842.
Sir Charles Metcalfe,	1843.
Earl Cathcart,	1845.
Earl of Elgin and Kincardine,	1847.
Sir Edmund W. Head,	1854 and 1857.
Gen. Sir William Eyre, Adm.,	1857.
Lord Viscount Monck,	1861 and 1866.
Gen. Sir John Michel, Adm.,	1865.