

formation; in fact, without any of the means which so remarkably characterise modern society, or even the means of supplying the real wants of the few scattered inhabitants.

Less than one hundred years ago, New Brunswick was but a county in Nova Scotia, by the name of Sunbury. One hundred years ago, Prince Edward Island became the property of Great Britain. The seaboard of these colonies exceeds, in the aggregate, 1,500 miles; of this distance, there was not, one hundred years ago, more than five miles of settlement. One hundred years ago, the whole number of settlements did not exceed fifteen; the principle being those of Halifax, Truro, Windsor, Annapolis, then called Port Royal, St. John, Cumberland, Bay Verte, Miramichi, Bay Chaleur, and Sydney, in the Island of Cape Breton.

If we contrast the state of these isolated spots, known as the settlements of a hundred years ago, with the present state of these colonies, one cannot fail to see progress indelibly stamped upon every place.

The external boundaries of these respective colonies, forms each, one almost unbroken settlement; the banks of the numerous and extensive rivers, which every where penetrate the country, are lined with flourishing settlements; each colony is traversed in all directions by good roads, the streams, wherever necessary, are spanned by substantial bridges; the 30,000, the aggregate population of ancient Acadia, one hundred years ago, has increased to 600,000 souls; history fails to inform us of the existence of more than half a dozen schools in all Acadia one hundred years ago, while the aggregate number of the present day exceeds 2,000, with a large number of Colleges and Academies, Mechanics Institutions, Museums, etc. One hundred years ago there were no steamboats, telegraph lines, or railroads in the world; now, our extensive sea girt boundaries, as well as rivers, are plied by numerous steamboats; and every town and village is connected by telegraph lines, and the iron horse has been introduced. Manufactories for lumber and other purposes may be counted by hundreds; and fleets of

fine ships, of Colonial manufacture, are continually employed to bear the products of the forest, of the mines, and of the sea, to the markets of the world. One hundred years ago New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island were included under the government then established in Nova Scotia; now each of these three Colonies are exercising the principle functions of civil government, and each possess nearly all the political paraphernalia common to countries, which are as old as the Christian era.

Leaving "one hundred years ago" behind us, and looking in imagination to one hundred years ahead, when our bodies will have long been mingled with the clods of the valley, what will then be the state of these Colonies, will they confederate and form one potent Empire, or will they continue integrals of Great Britain? Whatever their political destiny may be, one thing appears very certain, that progress in the development of their vast latent resources,—progress in the cultivation of the soil, in the extension of commerce, in general improvement, and progress in the extension of privilege, will be prevailing characteristics of the coming century.

Leaving the considerations, for a time, both of the past and future, and looking at the present state of society, we certainly see and hear of much that is peculiar to the present. If any one who lived in the days of George the Third, could visit this terrestrial hall again, what astonishing sights would be presented in the first months of 1859. In riding over the face of the civilized world he would behold huge carriages, holding fifty or sixty men each, thundering through most all parts of the world at the rate of thirty, and even sixty miles an hour; vessels of enormous size, steaming along the rivers and over the face of old ocean; men thousands of miles apart holding familiar converse with each other, as if face to face; bridges hung on wires, spanning mighty chasms and vast rivers; roads passing under the bottom of rivers, and through the hills for miles; telegraph cables spanning the ocean; artists painting with the flash of sunbeams; man rising as on wings, and riding on the