

The question of our relations with Canada is now pressing upon the American people as never before. Every Canadian engaged in productive or profitable industry, whether a farmer, miner, manufacturer, lumberman, or fisherman, is either a customer, a source of supply, or a competitor of some American. The Canadian lines of railroads, which now cross the continent, which have been constructed at a cost of more than £120,000,000 sterling, originally intended to be competitors with the railroads of America as well as military roads, have become largely tributary to the United States, are building up American cities at the expense of those of Canada, and enable New England and the Northwest to hold their own in the rivalry between them and the communities of the Middle States and the South. Out of the present condition of things there has come such large advantage to us that the stream of emigration from Canada to the United States is probably at this time larger than from any other country in the world in proportion to the capacity of the fountain. More than one million Canadians are now upon American soil. They are among the most energetic and valuable of that people. There are regions in Canada which have been abandoned by all their young men, who have sought occupation here. I was told of a single township where, on a voting-list made up two years ago, there were two hundred and eighty-six names, sixty-six of whom within that time have come to this country. The historical scholars of the United States may, therefore, well deem it as much within their province to make their countrymen familiar with the history, traditions and institutions of Canada, as if it were already embraced within the Union itself.

It is the purpose of this essay to give a brief outline of the Constitution of Canada, to show what portion of it has been derived from the United States, and what portion of it is of British origin. This will be done without an attempt to bring to light any historical fact not generally known, or