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**OXFORD AND NORFOLK
GAZETTEER & DIRECTORY.**

PROVINCE OF CANADA.

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Three centuries and a half have only passed since John and Sebastian Cabot discovered the portion of the continent of America to which the name of Canada has been given. It was still many years after this ere its territory was taken possession of or thought worthy of conquest. In the beginning of the sixteenth century the French took possession of the country, and attempted its colonization, with various and uncertain success. In the year 1540 Jacques Cartier was Captain-General, and Jean Francois de la Rocque, Lord of Roberval, Viceroy in Canada. The first endeavors of Roberval to settle the country were frustrated by the critical state of France at the time, and it was consequently some time afterwards that the attention of that country was drawn to the richness and extent of the fur trade of the colonies, which led to a vigorous and successful effort being made in colonizing this distant and hitherto neglected part of the French territory.

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Britain was at this time energetically planting colonies, and during the wars that raged for many years between these rival States many unsuccessful attempts were made to conquer Canada, in which, however, Britain failed, till under the administration of the illustrious statesman, the Earl of Chatham, the country of Canada passed away from French rule. In the struggle that gained the country the brave General Wolfe fell just as he was assured he had won for his country a second Gibraltar, and an important and valuable colony.

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On the eighth of September, 1760, the capitulation which transferred Canada from the Gulf of St. Lawrence to the unknown west, was signed—the Treaty of Paris—by which Canada was formally ceded to the British Crown, was signed on the tenth of February, 1763. From the overthrow of the French dominion to the division of the province into upper and lower sections, the colony experienced many vicissitudes. Many petty quarrels arose between the old French colonists and the new settlers of British origin. In 1774 the administration of justice and the affairs and government of the province generally underwent a radical, comprehensive and important change with a view to the tranquilization of the French and the encouragement of British immigration.