

ing no small amount of happiness and prosperity ; if her commercial and industrial progress is in some respects even greater than that of her neighbour ; if her political and social conditions rest on a secure and healthy basis ; if her prospects are now of a most encouraging character, she may thank her own public men, who have succeeded, against many obstacles, in developing a country to whose importance, as a factor in the world's progress, statesmen and publicists, not only in England but in France, the original colonizer of Canada, are commencing at last to give a measure of recognition.

It was inevitable that Canada should occupy, during the early years of her career, a position of considerable disadvantage on this continent. In those times, which now seem so distant, when she was a colony of France, the people that dwelt by the St. Lawrence and its tributary rivers were distracted by war and cramped by a system of government most antagonistic to colonial growth. The more liberal institutions of the old English colonies of America gave greater scope to the industrial activity of their people, and prepared them for all the legitimate results of national independence. For many years after Canada became a British possession she continued to occupy the same disadvantageous position. The British American Provinces were always overshadowed by the powerful republican confederation to their south. Previous to 1840, there was certainly some reason for the unfavourable comparisons that English statesmen and writers were always making between the two countries. "The contrast which I have described," said Lord Durham in his report, "is the theme of every traveller who visits these countries, and who observes on one side of the line the abundance, and on the other the scarcity, of every sign of material prosperity which thriving agricultural and flourishing cities indicate, and of that civilization which schools and churches testify to the outward senses." These words were true enough when written, over forty years ago, while Canada was torn asunder by intestine strife. The union of 1840, however, caused a remarkable change in the material, social, and intellectual development of the Canadian Provinces, and, with the progress of free institutions and responsible government, schools were established in every direction, commerce flourished, and villages, towns and cities sprang up all over the face of the country. But, as a rule, the United States have continued the cynosure of attraction for the European emigrant, anxious to change his