

First.—*The boundless possibilities of the field, and its evident destiny in the future.*

Transcontinental railways and luxury in travel have rendered it less necessary than formerly to expatiate on the extent and resources of the west, but even yet there is room, especially in the Church, for larger appreciation of what these resources mean. That such should be necessary on the part of others I cannot wonder at, when I remember that it is but as yesterday that Canadians themselves awoke to some appreciation of the place among the nations of the world, to which Providence has evidently destined our land, and in that appreciation the Church, I rejoice to believe, is a sharer. Realize for a moment, if you can, the extent of this land, soon to be peopled with millions of every race. Our land of the Lakes and the North Star possesses areas almost as great as those of entire Europe, forty times as great as those of the British Isles, and twelve times that of the Republic of France. An American writer, speaking of his own land, says: "Take five of the first-class powers of Europe, Great Britain and Ireland, France, Germany, Austria and Italy, then add Spain, Portugal, Switzerland, Denmark and Greece. Let some greater than Napoleon weld them into one mighty empire and you could lay it all down in the United States west of the Hudson River, once and again and again—three times." But what say you to a land in which the great Republic itself might be set down, and from the half-million square miles of territory remaining over, kingdoms might still be carved? I confess when I speak of our broad Dominion, clasping three oceans in her embrace, I feel like the little lad in one of the schools in Chicago, who,

when asked by his teacher the other day to give the boundaries of the United States, called upon his loyalty to cover his lack of exact knowledge and said, "Why, ma'am, since the war, there ain't no East, West, North, nor South to this glorious Republic."

The resources of our land are an even more important factor in determining its destiny, and these are on a corresponding scale of magnificence with its extent. The climate is so varied that it includes that of central and southern Italy and that also of sterile Siberia and rugged Norway; here the Sicilian may cultivate his fruit trees and trim his vineyards, and here the hardy Finlander may follow the chase over snow-clad plain and grow the hardier grains under summer suns. Between these extremes lie the vast agricultural resources of the greater part of our land. The Prairie Province of Manitoba is one vast wheat field, producing this staple product for the world's supply in a quality and with a generosity declared by official investigation to be unrivalled elsewhere. Our mines, alike in the Maritime Provinces, and more especially in British Columbia and in the Yukon, are attracting the gold-hungry from every corner of the earth, the gold mines alone promising large returns for one hundred years to come, and the more valuable deposits of the commoner minerals being simply exhaustless. An American authority declares that "no country in the world possesses so much iron, and nowhere is it quite so accessible to manufacturers." History, it is said, has proved that "no nation has become great that has failed, for natural or other causes, to develop an iron industry; if this is so, the importance of Canada's iron deposits is evident. Her coal deposits are as valuable and as