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## RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT IN CANADA.



It is a remarkable fact that amongst us sufficient attention is not generally given to Canadian history. Why is this? We do not know. Does not the history of this young country present matter as interesting as that of any other? None but the ignorant would deny it. The attempts at settlement, the difficulties and obstacles encountered by our fathers in this western world, their struggles for freedom, oftentimes accompanied by self sacrifice and heroic deeds, mark periods of our national progress, with which every Canadian should be thoroughly acquainted.

Men are by nature social beings; they live in community for mutual aid in attaining a common end. There must necessarily, then, be some rules or regulations by which all the efforts of the individuals will be directed to this end, and this gives us immediately the idea of a government forming and enforcing these rules or laws. According as the community so governed becomes a more perfect society, corresponding improvements will be made in the government, which thus becomes the index of a nation's progress.

Let us apply this to our own country, that we may see whether or not Canada's progress demands more attention from Canadians than it really receives. In our history, indicated in the rise and progress of our government, it will be seen how devoted sons of other climes came to this land to make it their home; what obstacles beset them at every step, and how they were removed; what heroic

struggles were required for the possession of these envied regions; how the thunders of war gave place to the hum of industry, as victors and vanquished joined hands in friendship, and wept in sorrow over the graves of the cherished dead; and how from a scattered colony on the banks of the St. Lawrence, Canada became the vast Dominion, extending from ocean to ocean. But let us not anticipate, this will all be found in the annals of our country; our business is to speak of the various phases of Colonial Government, from which was evolved the present Confederation of the Provinces.

The original Canada comprised the territory along the St. Lawrence from the Gulf in the east to Lake Ontario in the west, with that to the south-west known as the Ohio Valley. Attempts at settlement were first made by Cartier, Roberval and de la Roche, but proved futile. To Champlain is due the honour of effecting the first permanent settlement. This man had been appointed the agent of a fur-dealing company organized in 1603. He visited Canada, soon determined upon establishing a colony, and began with the founding of Quebec on July 3rd, 1608. From this time forward can be dated the existence of government in Canada, centred, however, in governors residing in France, and administered by Champlain in Canada during thirty-two years. These governors were frequently changed, much to the annoyance of Champlain, who experienced a great deal of trouble with the "Company of Merchants" whom he represented. This company failed to comply with the conditions of its charter, which was consequently withdrawn at his