

States should cross the St. Lawrence and the St. Croix, and attempt the conquest of her no less important North American Colonies. Russia has never yet attempted, or even made any decided demonstration in the way of attempting, the apprehended conquest of India. The forces of the United States have twice invaded the North American Provinces; and—let men say what they will about the ties of kindred, and “America’s” affection for her Mother Country—the desire to do so again remains quite as strong as it ever was. There is only the most extreme possibility that the United States will ever bring British North America under their dominion; but it is quite within the bounds of probability that the attempt will be made—and that at no very remote period, unless means are taken to prevent it. The cheapest and most effective of those means would be to place the Provinces in a position to defend themselves—to give them that self-reliance, that compactness of physical strength, that unity of action, and increased dissemination and intensity of national feeling, which can be given by a Legislative Union of those Provinces, and by that only.

A few statistics will go far towards enabling us to judge of the capacity, present and future, of the Provinces, if so united, to form a bulwark against foreign encroachment. They will also enable us to form an idea of the real value and importance of those Provinces, and consequently of the results which would be likely to follow their violent separation from the Mother Country. The growth of British America will be better comprehended by comparing it with that of her more celebrated neighbor, the United States, whose rapid progress has so much astonished the world. An opinion has very generally prevailed on this continent, and also in Great Britain in as far as any opinion is there entertained on the subject, to the effect that, while the United States have advanced amazingly in population, wealth, commercial enterprise, and general prosperity, British America has remained almost stationary. This opinion has done serious injury both to the reputation of the latter country, as a field for emigration, and to that of its inhabitants as an active and intelligent

people. Facts prove, that, of the two countries, the progress of British America has been the most rapid.

Let us begin with the comparative increase in the population of the two countries; and take, as a starting point, the year 1783, from which period dates the separate, national existence of the United States. In 1780, the population of those States amounted to 2,051,000. In 1790 it was 3,929,872.

In 1783, it may be fairly estimated at	2,500,000
In 1850, it amounted to 23,191,074; and, in 1851, say	24,000,000
Increase in 68 years, from 1783 to 1851	21,500,000
Equal to 860 per cent.	
The population of the whole of Canada, in 1784, and say in 1783, amounted to	113,000
That of the Lower Provinces, including the Loyalists who settled there at the close of the Revolutionary War,	32,000
In all.....	145,000
The population of Canada West, in 1850, was by census returns 781,000—in 1852, 952,004—and, in 1851, say	671,500
Canada East, in 1848,—770,000; in 1852,—890,261; in 1851 say	840,500
New Brunswick, by census of 1851, ...	194,000
Nova Scotia do.	277,000
Prince Edward Island, in 1848, 62,678: at same rate of increase as for three years previous to that time, in 1851, it would be.....	70,000
	<hr/>
	2,253,000

Increase in 68 years, from 1783 to 1851 2,108,000
 Equal to 1450 per cent.

At the same rate of increase, the population of the United States would have been 36½ millions. In the ten years previous to 1850, during which time the tide of emigration set more strongly towards the United States than at any former period, the population of those States increased at the rate 36.36 per cent.: that of the Provinces, during the ten years previous to 1851, at the rate of 48.41 per cent. To rectify the erroneous supposition which, probably, will immediately impress itself upon many minds, that this rapid growth, on the part of British America, has taken place in the Upper Canada section alone, it may be observed, that during those respective decades, the population of New Brunswick—the lowest, in this respect, on the Provincial list—increased at a more rapid rate than that of any of the Eastern States except Massachusetts and