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BANKS AND BANKING.

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The security and success of a Bank depends upon the integrity and ability of those who have the control of it. A Bank may be said to be a Commercial Establishment of the highest class, liable to bankruptcy like any Mercantile Firm, although conducted on a principle which renders such an event far more doubtful than the failure of the Merchant. Nevertheless for a Bank to maintain steady progress, and retain public confidence, its conductors must be suited to the responsibility.

In a new country like Canada, the home of the adventurer from all parts of the world, where there are so many opportunities for speculation and enterprise, by men with either small or large capital, and such a disposition to a reckless spirit of overtrading, it is creditable to those who have the control of our monetary Institutions, that they enjoy the reputation of being as secure, and are as profitable to the capitalist as any similar investment in any part of the world.

In ordinary times, when there is nothing to check the steady progress of the country, when there is a succession of good crops, no providential plague or other public calamity, when the rate of interest continues for a time low in England, and our foreign indebtedness is kept within reasonable bounds, the banker confines his reflections to the limits of his own local business, as