



By J. CASTELL HOPKINS.

NO COUNTRY in history has had a sterner struggle with the varied elements of war and nature, than Canada. No people, not even the Greeks, in their far-famed conflict with Persian power, have had more stirring annals than those shared by the settlers and early defenders of our broad Dominion. Yet no important events in the record of the nations have been so persistently ignored, so entirely misunderstood, or so steadily misrepresented, as the battles in which Canadians have figured, or the wars in which they have been concerned. Up to very recent years the English school-boy knew little of the conquest of Canada and the great results which flowed from it, although he had probably heard of Wolfe's capture of Quebec.

Europe knows nothing of Canada, and of struggles worthy to rank with those of Switzerland and Holland, except that it is a country mixed up in some way with America or the United States. The average school-boy in the neighbouring Republic is taught that the country to the north, so vaguely defined on his maps, is cold, dreary—and British. Being all these things, and especially the latter, it is a good country to keep away from. He knows nothing of its history; of the defence of its broad territories in 1812, under circumstances which dwarf his own Revolutionary War in heroism and difficulties; or of its development since

that time. He grows up ignorant of these things as well as of the fact which James Russell Lowell once so eloquently indicated, when he declared that "Wolfe's victory upon the Plains of Abraham had made the United States possible." And the newspapers, which, because of this, and similar speeches, were always more or less hostile to Lowell, keep the pupil in this condition of ignorance after he has grown up.

It is all a sad mistake and pity. The United States is too great a country, and too enterprising and energetic a community, to make this sort of education and hostility either necessary or desirable. It won national independence under circumstances which all American history for all time will consider glorious, though the impartial annals of the world will record certain obvious flaws in this claim, and memories of United Empire Loyalists will turn over at least one unpleasant American page. It maintained its independence against the half-hearted attacks of Great Britain in 1812, and in doing so, turned its guns and forces upon Canada in an effort to destroy the independence of the young country to the North. It maintained its commercial independence with much more signal success and honour in the years from 1800 to 1860. It maintained its national union in a struggle which stamped American history with many pages of undisputed glory. Why then