

CANADIAN CIVICS.

PART I.—NATIONAL AFFAIRS.

TOPIC I.

THE OUTSIDE NATIONS AND THE EMPIRE.

1. The Nations.

When we look abroad upon the world, we observe that it has numerous divisions which bear the name of "countries" and which are occupied by "nations." Some of these divisions are large, such as the United States and Russia, while others are small, such as Switzerland and Greece. But we must not estimate power and importance solely by extent of territory. Thus Germany, though occupying a portion of Europe of only moderate area, is regarded as one of the great nations of the world.

There are, however, very few countries strong enough to defend themselves successfully against a foreign foe. The weaker nations owe their independence sometimes to the sense of justice of the more powerful, but more often to the