

against any religious influence except that which is *exclusively Catholic*. In this country, then the Catholic religion has had the best possible opportunity for developing its legitimate and uncounteracted tendency. To ascertain that tendency, let the present state of this country, be compared with that which skirts our southern boundary.

*Canada* was settled nearly at the same time with *New England*, and drew its colonists from a country inferior to none except England, in civilization, arts and enterprise. *Canada* in its mighty rivers and fertile soil, possesses commercial and agricultural capabilities fully equal, if not superior, to those of *New England*. But colonies too were originally under the influence of the clergy. No Protestant country, was ever more swayed by its ecclesiastical members, than was *New England* for the first one hundred and fifty or two hundred years of its existence. In *Canada*, the influence of Catholic priests, has always been extensive and powerful. These two countries grew up side by side. If ever therefore there was a decisive experiment to determine the legitimate, and diverse influences which result from pure Popery and pure Protestantism, here was one.

*New England* grew and improved; school and colleges sprang up in the forest; its population increased with a rapidity which almost defied calculation. From her bosom she has sent out swarms of industrious settlers to the south and west. It was the spirit of *New England*, infused into the whole nation, which has made America a nation of enterprise, intelligence, and piety. Traverse the cities and towns of *New England*, you find the most prominent and splendid indications of prosperity, industry, and power. In the country villages, the appearance of the fields, the cattle, and the farm houses, manifest a high degree of taste, judicious management and thrift. In every town, even the most obscure, several schools are maintained nearly all the year, and so generally is education diffused, than an adult born and bred in *New England*, who cannot read and write is almost a prodigy. In every nook and corner where a water privilege is found, there springs up a manufactory, built and managed by native artists; creating wealth and beauty in some of the most barren townships.

It was the influence of an *Evangelical Protestant Clergy*, which formed *New England* character, enterprise and knowledge. They founded her colleges, and educated her sons, and used the power which their piety and education gave them, to elevate, to enlighten, and to free.

*Canada* has advanced but slowly in population, having increased only six hundred thousand, in two hundred years. It must be recollected, that she has never been subject like *New England* to a drain from emigration, but has retained all her sons in her own bosom. She has no manufactures, except a few articles of the most ordinary necessity. Lately, schools are established in the country parishes, under the authority of a recent act of parliament; but at present, in the Catholic portion of the province, they are few in number and miserably low in point of character. Until