

FIRST LECTURE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—The subject to which I am, this evening, to call your attention,—interesting in itself from its relation to the progress of our race and the providence of God,—must to us have a special interest, because of its reference to ourselves. My theme is the growth and prospects of Canada—in other words, the advancement we are ourselves making, with the anticipations we may cherish for ourselves and our children.

By the excellent lectures delivered by Mr. ROBERTSON, in the early part of the season, on the history of Canada, I am happily relieved from the necessity of occupying your time with preliminary details. Hence, with your permission, I will proceed at once to the topic announced, only premising that I speak chiefly, though not exclusively, of Canada West. This I do partly because I am better acquainted with it and have the materials relating to it more within my reach, partly because it is newer than Canada East, partly too because I think the comparisons so often made between the two sides of the Line fair only when confined to Upper Canada.

The population of Canada at the time of its surrender to Britain in 1760 is variously stated at 60,000 and 69,275, exclusive of Indians. Of these estimates, the former is that given by the Board of Registration and Statistics, which I extract from one of Mr. Scobie's very valuable Almanacs (that for 1850);* the latter that supplied by Mr. Smith, (in his excellent work on which I have taken the liberty of drawing freely)† from the report of Governor Murray.

With the exception of a few trading stations, of which Kingston and Detroit were the chief, this population was confined to the lower

* Scobie's Canadian Almanac and Repository of Useful Knowledge, for the year 1850, containing Statistical, Astronomical, Departmental, Ecclesiastical, Educational, Financial and General Information. 8vo, pp. 80. Published annually. Toronto: H. Scobie.

† Canada, Past, Present, and Future: Being a Historical, Geographical and Statistical account of Canada West, containing 10 County Maps and one General Map, with a Business Directory. By W. H. Smith, author of the Canadian Gazetteer. Royal 8vo., vol. I., pp. cxxiv, 290, 82, & 24 = 513. Toronto: Thomas Maclear, Publisher.