

*From the Scottish Review*ART. V.—CANADA: ITS POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT. *4 D. 2111*

1. *Parliamentary Government in the British Colonies.* By ALPHEUS TODD, Librarian of Parliament, Canada. Boston, 1880.
2. *Colonies and Dependencies.* By J. S. COTTON and E. J. PAYNE. London, 1883.
3. *Census of Canada.* 1880-81.
4. *Trade and Navigation. Returns of Canada for 1884.*
5. *Constitution of Canada.* By JOSEPH DOUTRE, Q.C. Montreal, 1880.

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THE great interest that is now taken in questions affecting *the* our Colonial Empire shows quite clearly that Britain has been at last fully aroused from that 'fit of absence of mind' in which, as Professor Seeley somewhat sarcastically observes, 'she has conquered and peopled half the world,' and that she has begun to realize that an English people means something more than 'simply a race inhabiting an island off the northern coast of the Continent of Europe.' This interest in the Colonies certainly stands out in remarkable contrast with the indifference that was too often felt by Englishmen whenever colonial matters were brought under their notice. For many years the Colonies were generally associated with some grievance, which it was not always possible for the officials of Downing Street to understand or remedy. Public men, as a rule, were not likely to win much *clat* in England by devoting themselves to the consideration of Colonial questions. Governors-General sometimes thought it a form of banishment to be forced, for public or private reasons, to preside for a few years over the destiny of a Colony. We find Lord Sydenham, better known as Poulett Thomson in English political history, lamenting on one occasion in a letter to a friend that it was not at all probable that his successful administration of the affairs of Canada would render him 'half so *marquant* a person as a good speech in the House of Commons, or a pleasant breakfast at Greenwich would have done.' Even Mr. Disraeli,