

desperate conflicts. At one time French, at another English, torn by the bloody strifes of the native tribes, assailed in the revolutionary struggle of the American Colonies 100 years ago, and again attacked, but unconquered in the American war of 1812, Canada has known vicissitude, developed a hardy people, and exhibited that capacity of giving and taking sturdy blows, which indicate inherent pluck and vigour. It was brought vividly before the British public, when a little more than a century ago the gallant Wolfe took Cape Breton, and Prince Edward Island, and Quebec, defeating Montcalm, a foe as gallant as himself. Thereafter Canada was very much forgotten, except when the American wars forced it into notice, until 1837, when an attempt at insurrection surprised our ill-formed politicians at home, and led to a more careful estimate of these great Colonies. Canada never assumed a position of any prominence till within the lifetime of many of ourselves.

The Canada that met my view when I first sailed up the St. Lawrence thirty-four years ago, was little advanced and sparsely peopled. Shortly before my visit, Lower and Upper Canada had been united as one Province, having two parts—Canada East and Canada West. There was little intimacy between those parts; but the Province was one, as having one administration and one Parliament. The Governor was also Governor-General of British North America; but in peace this was an honorary distinction. The region below Quebec made the same impression that it does now. There were the same lines of whitewashed houses, parish churches, with roofs of glittering tin, and the same abundance of coasting craft laden with fish, staves, or sawn timber. This is the most unprogressive district of the country, and though the the Grand Trunk now runs along the south shore for more than 100 miles below Quebec, and many more steamers ply than at the time of which I speak, the *tout ensemble* is really unchanged.