

water the whole of England, Scotland, and Wales, while forty such kingdoms, pieced together, would not cover the entire area of the Dominion. Only by such meagre comparisons can one endeavour to form a conception of the vastness of the country. Of its natural resources no adequate conception can be well given.

THE MARITIME PROVINCES.

MANY were the encounters of which what we now call the Maritime Provinces were the witness, in the long conflict between the two great European nations that for a hundred and fifty years strove for mastery in the New World. In the Acadian wars, not only Port Royal (Annapolis), Halifax, Louisburg, St. John, and other towns and cities of the Maritime Provinces are identified with the long struggle between the two races; but much of the coast line, from Prince Edward Island, round Cape Breton and the Nova Scotia peninsula, and up both shores of the Bay of Fundy, has its historic sites and landmarks, which preserve the traditions of the years of international strife. In this respect, the old Province of Acadia possesses greater historic interest than does any other part of the continent, if, perhaps, we except Quebec, that "great red rock," which was long the seat and refuge of the forlorn French colony in the St. Lawrence. It would seem as if the French

Crown set little store by its Acadian possessions, until the establishment of the English in Virginia and their extension northward brought them into collision with the French colonist. The flames of enmity, once kindled, continued intermittently to blaze and smoulder for a century-and-a-half, until the fall of Quebec and the final retirement of the French from the continent. The first direct collision between the two nations in Acadia was Argall's expedition from Virginia, which captured the Fort and destroyed the French settlement at Port Royal. This occurred in 1618. Then came the expedition against the same beautiful landlocked basin and frowning fort, sent out by Cromwell, followed by the Phipp's expedition from New England, its reinvestment and recapture in the time of Queen Anne, when its name was changed to Annapolis, after which Louisburg, with its extensive fortifications, became the scene of conflict and the grim test of British and colonial prowess. On the fortress of Louisburg, the "Dunkirk of America," as it was proudly called, the French expended thirty million livres, only to see it fall with frightful carnage, first, before the assault of Colonel Pepperall's colonial levies, aided by the British fleet, then, and finally, before Admiral Boscawen's armada, assisted by the invincible brigades of General Wolfe's command, who were soon to terminate, on the Heights of Abraham, French dominion in North America.