

GOVERNMENT IN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES COMPARED.

THE history of the relation between Canada and the United States, from a time preceding the War of Independence until to-day, affords a remarkable instance how little the relations of communities with each other are determined by their interests or by mere reason. The desire of our statesmen at the time of the Revolution that Canada should join with us in throwing off the yoke of Great Britain, and that she should become a part of our confederacy, is well known. Undoubtedly a like desire has possessed the great body of the American people ever since. It would have seemed that everything in the condition and interest of Canada would have promoted the accomplishment of this desire. Along her whole border, now extending for more than 4,000 miles, the physical conditions are such as tend to union rather than to separation. Nature seems to have designed her several provinces for union with the United States, if not for separation from each other. Canada had been brought under the authority of England but twelve years before our Revolution, by conquest. Her people were descended from England's hereditary rival and foe. Language, interest, religion, history, tradition, the memories of wars going back to the earliest days of the civilization of the two countries, would seem to have made it impossible that the French Catholics of England's North American provinces would ever abide content under the British yoke. Yet England never had a colony so obedient and so tranquil.