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share to her ambition; and more than once, when discontent reigned and hope was absent, the ability of Canada to hold her own on this continent, in the opinion of not a few, seemed to be steadily on the decline. But self-government in all matters of local concern changed the gloomy outlook to one of brightness and hope, and a spirit of self-reliance developed itself among statesmen and people, until Confederation united all the provinces in a Union which alone could enable them to resist the ambition of their restless neighbour. Forty-four States in 1890 with a population of over 62,000,000 of souls, against a population of 4,000,000 in 1790; with a total commerce of exports and imports to the value of \$1,400,000,000, against \$43,000,000 in 1790; with a national revenue of more than \$300,000,000, against \$41,000,000 in 1790, now represent the Federal Union, once composed of thirteen States, the basis of the nation's greatness. Despite all the powerful influences that have fought against Canada, she has held her own in America. In 1890 a population of 5,000,000 against 1,000,000 in 1840, with a total trade of \$230,000,000 against \$25,000,000 in 1840, and with a national revenue of nearly \$40,000,000 against \$700,000 in 1840, inhabit a dominion of seven regularly organized provinces and of an immense territory, now in course of development, stretching from Manitoba and Ontario to the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, and northerly to a great region watered by the Peace, Athabasca, Slave, and MacKenzie Rivers, and possessing a climate and soil, according to recent explorations, capable of supporting millions. This Dominion embraces an area of 3,519,000 square miles, including its water surface, or very little less than the area of the United States with Alaska, or a region with a width of 3,500 miles from east to west, and 1,400 miles from north to south. Its climate and resources are those of the Northern, Middle, and Western States. No dangerous question like slavery exists to complicate the political and social conditions of the Union; and although there is a large and increasing French Canadian element in the Dominion—the heritage of the old French régime in America—its history so far should not create fear as to the future except in the minds of sectarian and sectional pessimists who are too often raising gloomy phantoms of their own imaginings. While this element naturally clings to its national language and special institutions, yet it has, under the influence of a complete system of local self-government, taken as active and earnest a part as the English element in establishing and strengthening the confederation. The expansion of the African race in the Southern States is a question of the future for the Federal Republic which
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