

finally concluded, after much negotiation, at Washington, in July, 1854, where Lord Elgin appeared as a special representative of the British Government. This was the first time that Great Britain recognized the right of the Colonies to participate in the framing of a treaty which concerned their interests. This treaty allows to Americans, with certain exceptions, the use of British sea-fisheries; it provides for a numerous list of commodities which may be interchanged free of duty, between the United States and the Colonies, and the third great feature is that it opens the navigation of the St. Lawrence and the Colonial Canals to Americans, while the right to navigate Lake Michigan is accorded to Canadians. In this year Lord Elgin was recalled, and was succeeded by Sir Edmund Head, the present Governor-General of British North America. In 1855, the Universal Exhibition was opened at Paris, and there Canada distinguished herself by carrying off one grand medal of honour, one medal of honour, thirteen first class and thirty second class medals, while forty-three of her contributors obtained honourable mention.

VIII.—A settlement of the Clergy-Reserves' question, satisfactory to the people, was now obtained. The Canadian Parliament, under the authority of an Imperial Act, separated the State entirely from all Church connection, commuted with the various incumbents, and after providing for the widows and orphans of the clergy, divided the remaining land and funds among Upper Canadian Municipalities. In Lower Canada, likewise, a great social change has recently been effected; the Feudal Tenure, which so long repressed the industrial efforts of its French population, has been abolished, with the consent of all parties interested. The rights of property have been respected by making