

the priest—the one to uproot, the other to plant ; the one to take away, the other to give that which could never be taken away. Strange companions, truly. And the history of this companionship was not less strange. War for a world was about to break forth, and whatever military power, commercial power and the power of the Church could do was done for better and for worse in the strenuous enterprise.

The Old World rivalry of England, France and Spain speedily became as fierce, if not fiercer, in the New World. It is not our purpose to follow the fortunes of the invaders in South America, or even in the whole of North America, but to confine our attention to the northern portion of the latter, now known as the Dominion of Canada, from which Spain had withdrawn in order to go southward, leaving this portion of the field to her two great rivals.

The heart of this northern wilderness was reached by two routes, the one through Hudson Bay, the other through the St. Lawrence and the Great Lakes. Intersecting the country in every part are innumerable streams, some mere brooks hardly navigable for the birch-bark canoe, others mighty enough to float the largest of modern steamships.

The earliest strife began in the region tributary to Hudson Bay. In all this vast territory was to be found valuable fur, and in the fur trade with the Indians the first white men discovered a mine of wealth—a discovery, however, which not all their cupidity and desire for secrecy could keep from becoming known.