

wick, Prince Edward Island, and the Canadas as well as in the United States. In this instance, I served Her Majesty as a Field-Officer of militia, as Lieutenant-Colonel commanding a regiment and as a Justice of the Peace.

My numerous avocations gave me fresh opportunities of examining and forming my observations upon the political system now operating in those Provinces. I have exercised an influence as a Proprietor over forty-five miles of country, and hence have had the best means of obtaining information from the tenantry and yeomen. Entering extensively as a Colonist into public affairs, I connected the British North American Provinces, during last summer, by a steam communication : as a ship owner, I derived much important information on the Maritime Colonies.

Having thus participated, during my ten years of residence, in military, landed, and commercial pursuits, I hope the experience thus acquired, the

result of which will be found in the following pages, may entitle my remarks to some small amount of consideration.

Should my work excite, in the most remote degree a stronger interest than has been heretofore shown on the part of the English reader, in the destinies of Her Majesty's magnificent Colonial possessions in British North America, I should be satisfied.

But should these pages attract the attention of Her Majesty's Ministers to the danger which threatens those Provinces, and should the facts stated and the conclusions drawn be considered of sufficient importance to cause inquiries to be made, which may lead to the permanent retention of the British North American Colonies as appendages of the British Crown, through the introduction of institutions more suited to their advanced state of progress, then indeed will the object which I have in view be more than achieved."

London, May 1853.

