

Although the lines of the two nationalities that now occupy Canada may at times appear to diverge from each other and to seek different channels, yet let us hope that as the years pass by, they will be brought more closely together, until at last their fortunes become indissolubly united, just as we see two great rivers which have kept apart for many hundreds of miles, coming at last to mingle their waters and form one mighty stream flowing grandly and uninterruptedly towards the ocean.

JNO. GEO. BOURINOT.

ART. III.—THE SUBJECTS OF THE BYZANTINE EMPIRE.

THE durability shown by the Byzantine Empire could not be entirely accounted for if we did not take into consideration the material prosperity enjoyed by its subjects. The State could not have lasted so long without the defence afforded by armies and navies, and the cost of equipping and supporting these armies and navies was defrayed out of the wealth gained by industry and commerce. Of what this wealth was, we may gain some idea from the impression which it produced upon foreigners, even after the decline of the Empire had begun. In the year 1170, for instance, the Jewish traveller, Benjamin of Tudela, after passing through France, Italy, and many of the cities of Greece, visited Constantinople. It may be assumed that he was a competent judge of the value of the things which he saw. And here is what he says:—‘The immense treasures which pour into Constantinople from every province, town and city, surpass anything which can be imagined or which exists anywhere else. In the midst* of the

* He probably refers to the number of columns of the precious metals belonging to the Bema, and which was certainly too great to be at once realized by the eye, without counting. The eikonostasion was of silver, and had at least twelve, but, more probably, twenty-four columns of that