

»the shortness of the time in which the work has been carried
 »out, and the small numerical strength of the nation for whom
 »the work has been done, the construction of this road — imperial
 »in its conception and results — is without a parallel in the history
 »of similar undertakings."

That my readers may fully appreciate the ^{value in the Peninsula} ~~extent of territory~~ which Canada now possesses, I would ask them to follow me for a few minutes as I take them through the countries over which her great lines of railway pass. Starting from the East, we see the maritime provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island — Newfoundland still remaining isolated from the rest of British America — with an aggregate population of nearly a million souls, with coasts surrounded by the most valuable fisheries of the world, long the object of the envy of their American neighbours. These provinces possess rich mines of coal and other minerals, while their shipping industry is larger than that of all the New England States. They are indented by noble harbours and by rivers which enable their people to have communication with the seacoast in every direction. Proceeding northward through New Brunswick with its picturesque hills and valleys, and its rivers teeming with salmon, we come to the country watered by the St. Lawrence. First, we pass through the historic province of Quebec, the home of a million and a quarter of people, who are descended from those courageous Frenchmen who followed Champlain into the wilderness more than two centuries and a half ago. A range of mountains, coeval with the earliest ages of the world, stretches from North to South, and dips its slopes in the waters of the great river. A large farming population, chiefly French-Canadian, cultivate these Laurentian slopes, and the fertile lands which extend to the southward of the river as far as the American frontier. Valuable mines of iron and phosphate are found in the hills, which add so much to the picturesque beauty of a province famous for its rugged scenery, its rapid rivers, its wide lakes, and its impetuous cataracts. Large forests of pine still rise in gloomy grandeur on the heights overlooking the upper waters of the St. Maurice and Ottawa Rivers, and give employment to the many thousands engaged in one of the most profitable industries of Canada. Leaving Quebec we travel on to the premier province of Ontario, which claims a territory extending from the River Ottawa, the western boundary of Quebec, to beyond the head of Lake Superior, the largest of the inland waters of the Dominion. The greater part of this province illustrates the energy and enter-