# CANADA:

## HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE, FROM SEA TO SEA.

### BY G MERCER ADAM.

THE Canada of to-day, over whose wide-spread domain, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, the patriot eye glances with pride, is a theme so vast and one which recalls (especially if the tourist has the historic memory) so much of interest in the drama of the past that the descriptive writer may well feel embarrassed in the choice of material for even a brief sketch of the main features of the country, as he passes rapidly over the ground from sea to sea Here, on those rich Atlantic shores, from which the iron highway sets forth to span a continent, the historical student will recall the founding, amid its then rude environment, of De Monts' little Huguenot colony on the Bay of Fundy. It lacks but a decade-and-a-half of being three hundred years since then, yet within that space of time how vast has been the change! How vast even has been the change since Canada, which, as a group of confederated Provinces, has just attained her majority, entered Confederation and brought within her wide embrace the vigorous colonies and contiguous Provinces on either sea, with the limitless stretches and Nature's boundless resources that lie between. When the first Stuart King issued his charter which gave the English rights in Acadia, and his successor created the Order of Knights Baronets of Nova Scotia, the whole continent was a wilderness. Bit by bit it has been reclaimed from the desolation of solitude, until what was once a veritable *terra incognita* is now " a well-kenn'd land " Not witnout toil, we may be sure, has this transformation been effected, but if the toil has been spent there is much to show for the expenditure Nor is the heritage unworthy of the toiler. The Dominion of Canada has a territorial possession out of which the Old World would form a score of kingdoms. It has an area, roughly speaking, of three-and-a-half million square miles, not including the area covered by the great lakes In the chief lakes of the St. Lawrence basin alone, you could put under