

with fish, it has regions wholly unexplored of richly wooded lands and fine alluvial soil. Mr. Murray, the provincial surveyor, has, during the summer, reported to his Government the discovery upon the Gander River of vast forests of valuable timber, and of a country capable of supporting an agricultural population of at least 100,000 people; and this is but an instalment of future promise. It is, however, to be regretted that the possession and enjoyment of this noble island should be restrained and qualified by alleged French rights, which the British Government has not the hardihood to repudiate or the policy to abolish. On the West coast our fisheries are invaded, and claims are even made, and partially enforced, to exclusive dominion over the shore and adjacent districts. The assertion of these claims—doubtful in right, to say the least—is becoming so intolerable as to require the early attention of the British Government.

Passing through the Straits of Belle Isle, you enter upon inland waters, stretching inwards for 2,200 miles. The distance to Lake Ontario is 700 miles, and a vessel of 4,000 tons can steam unobstructed to Montreal, a distance little short of 600 miles from the entrance of the River St. Lawrence. On either side is an endless panorama of boldness and beauty, of wildness and cultivation, from the highland mountains of Gaspé to the smiling fields and quaint villages of the Isle d'Orleans, stretched out in a patchwork of cultivation. This is the province of Quebec. And what a province! Let me group together a few facts about it. Its length is between 700 and 1,000 miles, its breadth about 300. In area it occupies 193,355 square miles, or nearly 124,000,000 of acres. To this enormous territory there is at present only a population of 1,191,500, or 6.16 persons per square mile. Yet, one of the oldest colonies in America, imbued with many of the