

CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES: AN HISTORICAL RETROSPECT.

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When we review the past history of America, we can well believe that there has been a destiny ever "shaping the ends" of the Canadian communities, however diplomatists and statesmen have endeavored "to rough-hew them" in the early times of their development. In the beginning of the seventeenth century, England and France entered on that contest for the supremacy in America which did not end for a hundred and fifty years. The ruins of an old church tower, covered by ivy, and some gray tombstones, are the only remains of the first permanent English settlement made in Virginia, on the banks of the James River, by a few adventurous Englishmen; but the picturesque heights of Quebec, with its imposing citadel and ancient walls, its time-worn convents and churches, its curious climbing streets, and its French people, still recall the story of the bold Frenchmen who landed there one year after the English founded Jamestown. Then came the settlement of Massachusetts by the sturdy, self-reliant, narrow-minded Puritans, who have moulded the thought and stimulated the action of the old Eastern and Western States, and practically laid the foundation of the free institutions of America. The English colonies, possessing representative institutions, left to manage their internal affairs with little or no interference on the part of the parent state, were in a position to attain a degree of prosperity which the French-Canadian settlements on the banks of the St. Lawrence, governed like a province of France, having not even a semblance of local government,