

CHAPTER II.

The Earl of Durham, late Governor General of these Provinces, &c., &c., in his elaborate and in many respects valuable report, has the following paragraph, which it is to be hoped, will obtain the cordial approbation of every public man in England, as it most assuredly has in these Provinces.

“These interests are indeed of great magnitude; and on the course which your Majesty and your Parliament may adopt, with respect to the North American Colonies, will depend the future destinies, not only of the million and a half of your Majesty’s subjects, who at present inhabit those provinces, but of that vast population which those ample and fertile territories are fit and destined hereafter to support. No portion of the American Continent possesses greater natural resources for the maintenance of large and flourishing communities. An almost boundless range of the richest soil still remains unsettled, and may be rendered available for the purposes of agriculture. The wealth of inexhaustible forests of the best timber in America, and of extensive regions of the most valuable minerals have as yet been scarcely touched. Along the whole line of sea-coast, around each island and in every river, are to be found the greatest and richest fisheries in the world. The best fuel and the most abundant water-power are available