

length and breadth eight degrees of latitude and forty of longitude, and has an area in round numbers of about four hundred thousand square miles. The remarkable elongation of the federation compared with its cramped width, renders it anything but symmetrical to the eye, while the territory contiguous to our frontier is separated from us by few natural boundaries. Maine cuts into it like a wedge.

'Yet great states have existed in Europe with border lines as artificial and with as amorphous a shape. The Dutch republic is a case in point, and our northern neighbour has yet another resemblance to that celebrated nationality. Holland is a country of rivers, a net work of canals, an inner valley with an enormous sea exposure; so, too, the one fact that a study of the map of this incipient power will impress upon a thoughtful mind is the omnipresence of water. Physiology teaches us that the minutest cell-work of the human organism is provided with its little blood vessel, which restores the decayed tissue and removes all useless matter. Now what the blood of the heart is to man, water communication is to a nation. It means commerce, cheap freight, and, in all cases where there are great internal resources, great wealth.

'The tidal wave or the descending river current washes four-fifths of the new federation. Nova Scotia is a honey-comb of harbors. Between Halifax and Cape Causeau there are fifteen havens, twelve of them are deep enough for ships of the line. In New Brunswick we are told that hardly any part of the country is destitute of some stream, of greater or less size; and in some parts of the interior a canoe can be conveyed with equal ease to the Bay of Chaleur, the Gulf of St. Lawrence or the Bay of Fundy. But it is in the Canadas that we see most clearly how prodigal of help nature has been to the new federation. From St. Mary's river to the ocean, that marvellous chain of great inland seas, Huron, Erie, Ontario, are as it were but a great river expansion which narrows into the St. Lawrence and falls into the Gulf. Into this flows the Ottawa, draining eighty thousand square miles of land; into it also flow a thousand streams of greater or less breadth, but all of them with a sufficient fall to give impetus to innumerable water-wheels. What nature has failed to do art has accomplished, and the Falls of Niagara and the rapids of Long Sault have been surrounded by deep ship-receiving canals. While these great highways of travel prepare the way for rapid inter-communication and cheap transportation the climate offers no insuperable obstacle. The Gulf Stream warms the maritime provinces. In winter, drenching them, indeed, too often with mist and rain; all, save Prince Edward's Island, which curiously secures the advantage of a clement sky without the accompanying fog. But if there be damp sea-breezes there is also health, and the singular longevity of the people has passed into a proverb.

'In the Canadas the winters are sharp, but the summer is correspondingly hot, and vegetation springs up with swift and exuberant life. The severity of the cold season has also much abated since the forests have been cut into; the winters of New Brunswick have, it is affirmed, been shortened two months by this one cause. The frost, it is true, freezes up the rivers in December, and interrupts the regular passage of ships, but the country is already possessed of many hundred miles of railway, and when the Intercolonial railroad is completed there will be an unbroken line of communication from the ocean to the farthest interior.

'The resources of the provinces are confessedly very great. The waters of the inland valley and the outlying gulf swarm with fish. The back country is filled with extensive forests, and the soil is everywhere admirably adapted for the growth of cereals. At Ottawa and Saguenay 800,000,000 feet of lumber are turned out by the saw mills every year. Part of this is exported to Europe, part is sent to the United States, and part is employed in ship-building, which is itself a prominent branch of industry. The lumber business is constantly on the increase, and as early as 1857 exceeded the agricultural product.

'The Canadas and Nova Scotia are also certain to be great wheat growing countries. In the latter province vast alluvial marshes have been reclaimed from the sea and protected by artificial dykes. Upper Canada, wedged in between Lake Huron and Lake Erie, is extremely fertile, with a rich vegetable mould four feet deep, abundantly irrigated and at present only partly tilled. Wheat is the grand staple, but barley, oats, buckwheat and potatoes are raised to great profit. Where the soil is not adapted for the plough, it is nevertheless excellent for pasturage, and horses, sheep, cattle, as well as the products of the dairy, not only satisfy the home demand, but supply foreign markets.

'The fisheries are another marked feature of wealth. Cod, hake, halibut, haddock and shoals of mackerel fill the Bay of Chaleur, slide up along the shores of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, swarm in the harbour of St. John and the mouth of the Bay of Fundy. Alewives follow the tidal streams, and are seized in vast quantities. The nets burst with their weight of manhaden, which are caught

for their oil, and in Newfoundland the business of extracting oil from the seal is almost outrivalling the cod trade.

'But it is in its geological configuration that the prodigious importance of the new federation is most distinctly discerned. The extreme east abounds in gypsum, in excellent lime stone for building purposes, in plumbago, iron ore and coal. The carboniferous region covers an extent of one thousand square miles, while gold in the hard quartz has made the maritime provinces almost a second Australia. In the west, too, copper and silver have been found, and only wait the coming of the capitalist to return an abundant harvest. Besides all this, the Hudson Bay Company makes Canada a mart for its shipment of furs, and the point of a departure of its Indian traffic."

5. THE COLONIES OF GREAT BRITAIN—THEIR AREA, POPULATION, COMMERCE, DEBT, &c.

The Colonial dependencies of Great Britain have, during the twenty years previous to 1860, progressed very rapidly in population and trade. We find in the "Statistical Journal of London" an article from which we have compiled the following very valuable statistics respecting their growth, extent, &c.

The colonies and dependencies are arranged in seven groups, chiefly according to their geographical affinities, in the following manner:

1. The North American Group. 2. The West Indian Group.
3. The West African Group. 4. The South African Group.
5. The Eastern Group. 6. The Australian Group; and 7. The Mixed Group, containing places not in any of the foregoing divisions.

1. North American Group.

This group contains seven colonies, viz.:

1. Canada, 5. Newfoundland,
2. Nova Scotia, 6. British Columbia, and
3. New Brunswick, 7. Vancouver Island.
4. Prince Edward Island,

The aggregate territory of these colonies covers 512,169 square miles; the population, according to the latest returns, was 3,294,561, of whom 34,807 were people of color.

The value of the imports and exports in 1860, and the extent of the trade with the mother country, are shown by the following figures:

Imports from—

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| The United Kingdom | £4,882,000 |
| Other countries..... | 7,038,000 |
| | <hr/> £11,920,000 |

Exports to—

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| The United Kingdom | £3,618,000 |
| Other countries..... | 7,174,000 |
| | <hr/> 11,792,000 |

Total..... £23,712,000

One-third of the commerce of this group is carried on with England; the greater part of the remainder goes to the United States.

The whole amount of revenue raised for the year was £2,064,313, which is equal to a poll tax of 12s. 7d. The public debt at the end of the same year was £14,232,502.

The following table will show the area, population, trade, debt, &c., of this group in detail:

NORTH AMERICAN GROUP—AREA, POPULATION, DEBT, &c.

| Colonies, &c. | Area, Square Miles. | Population according to latest Return. | Revenue Raised in the Colony to latest Year 1860. | Debt on 31st December 1860. | Commerce in 1860. | |
|---------------------|---------------------|--|---|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | | | | | Value of Imports. | Value of Exports. |
| 1. Canada..... | 210,020 | 2,506,755 | 1,489,000 | 11,971,000 | 7,078,000 | 7,116,000 |
| 2. Nova Scotia..... | 18,671 | 332,264 | 177,000 | 1,004,000 | 1,702,000 | 1,324,000 |
| 3. N. Brunswick | 27,105 | 252,047 | 179,000 | 1,038,000 | 1,447,000 | 916,000 |
| 4. Pr. Ed. Island | 2,173 | 80,837 | 29,000 | 41,000 | 230,000 | 202,000 |
| 5. Newfoundland | 40,200 | 122,638 | 128,000 | 175,000 | 1,206,000 | 1,223,000 |
| 6. Br. Columbia | 200,000 | Not ascertained. | 53,000 | 5,000 | 257,000 | 11,000 |
| 7. Vanco'r. Island | 14,000 | | | | | |
| Total | 512,169 | 3,294,561 | 2,065,000 | 14,232,000 | 11,920,000 | 10,792,000 |

The material advancement may be estimated by the following comparisons:—In 1838, there were five colonies in this group. British Columbia and Vancouver Island have since been added. The population was, in the year stated, 1,282,000; it is now 3,294,561; being an increase of 157 per cent.; the aggregate value of the imports and exports was then £9,185,000; it is now £23,712,000, equal to an increase of 158 per cent.