

Manitoba and Ontario to the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, and northerly to a great region watered by the Peace, Athabasca, Slave, and Mackenzie rivers, and possessing a climate and soil, according to recent explorations, capable of supporting millions. This Dominion embraces an area of 3,519,000 square miles, including its water surface, or very little less than the area of the United States, with Alaska, or a region with a width of 3,500 miles from east to west, and 1,400 miles from north to south. The magnificent valley through which the St. Lawrence flows from the Lakes to the ocean, is now the home of prosperous, energetic, and intelligent communities, one of which was founded nearly three centuries ago. A remarkable system of water-ways, consisting mainly of the Red, Assiniboine, and Saskatchewan rivers, extends through the plains of the territories as far as the base of the Rockies, and fertilizes a region whose capabilities for the production of foods is probably not surpassed on this continent. The mountainous country to the north of Lake Superior is rich with copper, nickel, and other valuable minerals, which are already attracting the attention of enterprise in Europe and America. The gold mines of British Columbia are still productive, and the wealth that lies buried in the rocks of that immense province is yet to be discovered. The coal mines of Vancouver have no rivals on the Pacific coast, while those of Nova Scotia, and the Territories are capable of infinite development. The fisheries have long been the envy of the United States, and the agricultural production is as great as that of the most favored sections of that country. Its climate and resources are those of the Northern, Middle, and Western States,—the best sources of a nation's energy and wealth. No dangerous question like slavery exists to complicate the political and social conditions of the union, and although there is a large and increasing French Canadian element in the Dominion—the heritage of the old French *régime* in America,—its history so far should not create fear as to the future, except in the minds of sectarian and sectional pessimists, who are too often raising gloomy phantoms of their own imaginings.