

many memorials of the French régime; as we travel over the rich prairies with their winding rivers and memories of fur-trappers and Indian hunters; as we are carried by the locomotive through the passes of the mountains of British Columbia and look down on the rivers which bear the names of bold explorers who first ventured on their rapid and often dangerous currents;—as we survey all these varied scenes of the historic days of a country, still in the early phases of its national development, we may well be proud of the achievements of the men of the two nationalities who, in the course of centuries, were the Makers of the Dominion. We may fairly claim that its annals are exceptionally rich in fascinating episodes which may well arrest the attention of the novelist and poet. From Louisbourg to Mackinac, Canada has a rich heritage of associations that connect us with some of the most momentous pages of the world's history. The victories of Louisbourg and Quebec belong to the same series of brilliant events that gave to England a mighty empire in America and Asia, and recall the famous names of Chatham, Clive, and Wolfe.

In the series of historical papers of which this is the first, it will be my endeavour to recall the names and services of those men who, above all others in the annals of Canada, are associated with its discovery, its colonization, and its material, social and political conditions down to the present day when the Dominion may fairly claim a place among the nations of the world. In pursuance of this interesting task I am called upon to deal with certain well-defined epochs of Canadian history. First, there was that century of vague historical details, when sailors and explorers from many lands first ventured into the gulf and valley of the St. Lawrence. Next came that epoch of colonization and settlement under France which lasted for a century and a half, and was replete with many heroic and picturesque features. Then followed the cession of Canada to England, and that era of political

and constitutional struggle for a larger measure of public liberty which ended in the establishment of responsible government about half a century ago. Finally, I shall be called upon to refer to the beginning of that all-important epoch which dates from the federation of the Provinces—an epoch of which only three decades have passed—of which the signs are still full of promise, despite the predictions of gloomy thinkers, if Canadians face the future with the same courage and confidence that the Makers of Canada always showed in their varied and adventurous careers.

THE NORSEMEN.

The veil of mystery that enveloped North and South America for untold centuries, until Columbus ventured into the "Sea of Darkness" and gave a colonial empire to Spain, appears to have been lifted for awhile by the Norsemen—bold rovers of the sea from immemorial times. These were men of the same race which gave to England her present historic name, and to her people their love for maritime adventure. In certain Sagas, or presumably historical narratives of Iceland, we have evidence to show that these brave sailors, fitting representatives of the Vikings of old, notably Biarne Heriulfson and Leif Ericsson, whose fathers were the first Icelandic settlers of Greenland at the end of the tenth century, discovered new lands somewhere in north-eastern America, five centuries before Columbus landed on those southern islands which have ever since borne the name of Antilles, in recognition of that mysterious Antillia which has always eluded the search of adventurous mariners in the great unknown western ocean beyond the Pillars of Hercules. Many books and essays have been written on those Icelandic Sagas which are not merely collections of poetic folklore, but appear to contain a vague though credible narrative of events that actually occurred in the early history of Iceland and Greenland. Much learning and speculation have been devoted to the elucidation