

Quebec, Kingston, and other places, in the event of a foreign war. While, therefore, the connection of Canada with Great Britain secures her against all foreign aggression, she enjoys the largest measure of political liberty possessed by any people, and exercises entire control over her internal commerce, laws, municipal institutions, taxation, religion, and education. All her internal relations between government and people are those of a distinct and independent nationality; her external relations are in a measure controlled by the mother country; but, as an instance of the liberality which distinguishes the latter, Canada has been allowed to make her own arrangements with foreign governments, in Europe and America, for the conveyance of mails and postal matters between and over the continents, thus enabling her to assume, even in her foreign relations, the character of a nation. Such is the connection which exists between the Imperial Government and her colonial offspring. It may now be said that it is the earnest wish, and even the aspiration, of every true Canadian, that this connection may grow to a more intimate union in all her commercial relations with the people of Great Britain and Ireland, and in all sympathies which can draw fast and sure the bonds of friendship between distant nations of the same origin, government, and blood.

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THE CHARACTER OF THE POPULATION OF CANADA.—HER CITIES AND TOWNS.

Canada was once a French colony, and, until it was ceded to the British, possessed exclusively a French population. In that part of the province which lies to the north and east of the Ottawa River, and which is called Lower Canada, the people are chiefly of French extraction. West of the Ottawa, or Upper Canada, they are, for the most part, British. The population of the province is now about 3,000,000. In several parts of the province there are large colonies of Germans and Dutch, and some Norwegians; and it is probable that not less than 40,000 of these nations are already settled here. They are highly prosperous.

The rise and progress of cities and towns in Canada afford a curious and most instructive illustration of the expansion of the country, the development of its resources, the increase of its wealth, and the activity and energy of its people. Montreal is the largest city in Canada, and contains about 80,000 inhabitants; Quebec ranks next, with about 65,000; Toronto, third, with 50,000. In 1831, Montreal and Quebec contained a population of about 27,000 each. The history of Toronto foreshadows the history of other