

and hunters, streaming up the waterways of the St. Lawrence and scattering over the vast wilderness of half a continent in pursuit of dreams of wealth, or power, or fame; the romantic story of such lives as Iberville le Moyne and Charles de la Tour, such struggles as those of Champlain and the Iroquois, Frontenac and the Americans, Wolfe and Montcalm.

Through the shaded aisles of a primeval forest, over thousands of miles of lake and river and wilderness echo the sounds of that hundred years of war between the French and English for the possession of this continent. Out of these struggles develop the striking incidents of the Revolutionary period and the first conflict for Canadian independence; out of the new condition of affairs then created come the memories of a war in 1812 which was fought for freedom as fully, and marked by episodes as heroic, as ever were the conflicts of ancient Greek or modern Swiss.

To the constitutional student there are no more interesting pages in history than those describing the developments of the nineteenth century in British America and none which convey more lessons in the follies of a fanatical freedom, the strength of an hereditary loyalty, the value of a moderate liberty evolving through precedent into practice. The questions connected with the history of Canada are, indeed, at the very root of the annals and present position of the British Empire. He who would understand the situation of to-day must know something, for instance, of the prolonged struggle between British and American tendencies and influence which permeates the whole modern development of the Canadian people from the annexationist views of Papineau and Mackenzie to the continental aims of Mr. Erastus Wiman or Mr. Goldwin Smith; from the religious and denominational ties of early days between the two countries to the social and commercial relations of a later time; from the early period of American preachers and missionaries and teachers and schoolbooks