

THE HON. A. T. GALT

ON

CANADIAN AFFAIRS.

On the 26th Sept., the Hon. A. T. Galt, late Finance Minister of Canada, gave an address in the Town Hall, Manchester, to the members of the Chamber of Commerce. A requisition, signed by the principal Manchester merchants and manufacturers, had been previously addressed to the chamber, requesting them to invite Mr. Galt to afford them information respecting Canada and its Government. The Chamber of Commerce acceded to the request, and this meeting was the result. The Mayor of Manchester (Mr. T. Goadsby) presided and Mr. Galt was introduced by Mr. H. Ashworth, the President of the Chamber of Commerce.

The Hon. Mr. GALT, after a few prefatory remarks, spoke of the progress of Canada, in the Government in which he had had the honour for several years to hold a place. It was the largest and most important of the British colonies, having a population of 2,600,000, most of whom had proceeded from this country to find a home. It was desirable that in such a colony there should not be any misapprehensions entertained as to the sympathies, intentions, and acts of the mother-country. Taking the last census, it was found that the population of Canada West had increased from 952,000 to 1,396,000, being an increase of 40 per cent.; the lands held had increased from 9,825,515 acres in 1852 to 13,854,907 in 1861. The acres under cultivation in 1852 amounted to 3,702,788 and in 1861 to 6,051,619, being an increase of 63½ per cent. The wheat products had increased from 12,082,550 bushels in 1852 to 24,640,425 in 1861, being an increase of 103½ per cent. Canada was now producing results which in a few years must greatly enhance the importance she bore towards Great Britain, and which rendered the connection of the colony with the mother-country all the more important. This was a further reason why no mistakes should occur between them. Those points where