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# HISTORY OF CANADA,

AND OTHER PARTS OF BRITISH AMERICA.

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## Preliminary.

RIGHTLY to understand the past and present history of the Provinces of British North America, it is necessary that we should include in it a brief reference to the earlier annals of those European nations whose discoveries and enterprise form the background of our own historical times. Especially should we take a rapid glance at the history of those two great nations which first brought the civilization of Europe to these shores. We should know something of the ancient Britons when they were first visited by the ubiquitous Roman ; —when, from a rude and helpless infancy, they struggled and rose to a more than tribal manhood, even in those days of brief and lawless chieftainship. We should study their after-history, when invasion, disaster, and defeat, like the flames of a fiery furnace, had gradually fused their fitful nationality into that of their successive invaders ; and we should feel proud of them, when, in after-times, the commercial tastes and regal instincts, which led them to plant colonies and