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CANADA.

GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION AND EXTENT.

THE Province of Canada embraces about 350,000 square miles of territory, independently of its north-western possessions, not yet open for settlement. It extends from the Gulf of St. Lawrence on the East, to (according to some authorities) the Rocky Mountains on the West, and may be said to be one-third larger than France, nearly three times the size of Great Britain and Ireland, and more than three times the size of Prussia. The inhabited or settled portion of Canada covers already an area of between 40 to 50,000 square miles, being twice as large as Denmark, three times as large as Switzerland, a third greater than Scotland, and more than a third the size of Prussia ; and so rapid is the progress of colonization, that before many years have passed away her settled parts will most likely be equal in area to Great Britain or Prussia.

Canada was once divided into two distinct Provinces, known as Upper and Lower Canada, but in 1840 these Provinces were united, although for some purposes the old territorial divisions still exist. Upper Canada is that part of the new United Provinces which lies to the south and west of the River Ottawa, and Lower Canada comprises the country to the north and east of that river.

This extensive Province is bounded on the north by the British possessions at present in the occupation or guardianship of the Hudson's Bay Company ; on the south and east by the States of the American Union and the British Province of New Brunswick. The western boundary of Canada, west of Lake Winnipeg, is yet undefined. The River St. Lawrence, and Lakes Ontario, Erie, St. Clair, Huron, and Superior, with their connecting rivers, form a wonderful natural boundary between Canada and the States of the Union, and a means of communication of surprising extent and unsurpassed excellence.

CONSTITUTION AND FORM OF GOVERNMENT.

Canada, a Colony of Great Britain, rejoices in all the unfettered, religious, social, and political freedom of an independent nation. The Governor is appointed by the British Crown, and is its representative in the Province ; he nominates an Executive Council, who are his advisers. There are two Legislative bodies, called the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly, the members of which are elected by the people. All public offices and seats in the Legislature are (much in the same way as in England) open to