

with the French, rapidly took a new direction. Within twenty years from the peace which gave us New France, came another peace which cost us thirteen provinces.

Had the French flag continued to float over Quebec for another century, who shall say what would have been the present state of our continent? Is it not quite possible, in that case, that North America, or the bulk of it, would at this moment consist of a great French empire, extending from the mouth of the St. Lawrence to its source, and from the great lakes to the Gulf of Mexico, while the English provinces on the Atlantic, confined to the contracted strip between the Alleghanies and the ocean, would have formed a narrow fringe on the edge of the great French domain, holding their own against powerful neighbours only by the aid of Great Britain, whose empire, would be thus "cabined, cribbed, confined" in the west, while in the meantime it was attaining to colossal dimensions in the east, by colonies in Africa, Asia, Australia and Australasia, and by conquests in India and Burmah. Our own little province, which as long as one hundred and thirty years ago, was occupied by Acadians, whose fecundity had already spread their race from Annapolis to Truro, would, of course, have been French, and have formed the southern boundary of New France on the Atlantic. With the aid of British armies and fleets, the crest of the Alleghanies might probably have been retained, as the western boundary of the English provinces.

If it be true that the first siege of Louisbourg had so powerful an influence in shaping the fortune of North America, then the United States and British America have cause to bless the day when a majority of one in the Massachusetts Assembly first set on foot a policy pregnant with such wonderful results.

When we think of the number of fortuities which determined the result of the first act in the drama, it is difficult not to recognise the hand of Providence in the whole series of events which has occurred from that day to this. And in connection with the wonderful character of many of these events, we are constrained to admit that White field's motto was by no means inappropriate.