

on the Lakes; representative institutions were established, commerce was developed, and, by 1790, five provinces, governed in the English way, were established from Cape Breton to the western limits of Ontario. For many years the indifference of English statesmen and the ignorance which until relatively recent times prevailed with respect to the value of Canada as a home for an industrious people, retarded her material and political development. Isolated provinces, without common aspirations or national aims, had no influence over imperial councils in matters which were arranged by English diplomatists, whilst the federal republic, a union of free, self-governing States, had always in view, the promotion of their national strength and territorial aggrandizement. England, Spain, France, Mexico, and Russia, in turn, contributed their share to her ambition, and more than once, when discontent reigned, and hope was absent, the ability of Canada to hold her own on this continent, in the opinion of not a few, seemed to be steadily on the decline. But self-government in all matters of local concern changed the gloomy outlook to one of brightness and hope, and a spirit of self-reliance developed itself among statesmen and people until Confederation united all the provinces in a union, which alone could enable them to resist the ambition of their restless neighbor. Forty-four States in 1890, with a population of over 62,000,000 of souls, against a population of 4,000,000 in 1790, with a total commerce of exports and imports to the value of \$1,400,000,000, against \$43,000,000 in 1790, with a national revenue of more than \$300,000,000 against \$41,000,000 in 1790, now represent the federal union, once composed of thirteen States, the basis of the nation's greatness. Despite all the powerful influences that have fought against Canada, she has held her own in America. In 1890 a population of 5,000,000, against 1,000,000 in 1840, with a total trade of \$230,000,000, against \$25,000,000 in 1840, and with a national revenue of nearly \$40,000,000 against \$700,000 in 1840, inhabit a Dominion of seven regularly organized provinces, and of an immense territory, now in course of development, stretching from