

ILLUSTRATED SATURDAY EVENING READER

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ST. JOHN, N. B.

THE city of St. John, New Brunswick, was founded in 1784, and is situated on a peninsula projecting into the harbour, at the mouth of the river of the same name. The general character of the ground on which it is built, as well as that in its vicinity, is rocky and uneven, but considerable pains have been taken to level the rugged surface, and adapt the streets to the commercial requirements of a busy and flourishing town.

St. John is well built, and, as approached from the river, has an imposing appearance. According to the census of 1861, it was the most populous city in the Maritime Provinces, having 27,317 inhabitants within its own limits; and if the population of Carleton, with which it is connected by a suspension bridge, is added, the population numbered 38,817. It will be the fourth city in size in the Confederacy, only

Montreal, Quebec and Toronto being larger. The trade of St. John is large and profitable. In 1862, 1644 vessels arrived at the port, and 1439 departed. The real and personal estate of the city is estimated at about \$16,000,000. It is the seat of the Provincial Penitentiary and Lunatic Asylum, which, with the Roman Catholic Cathedral, the Court House, Institute, and other buildings, add greatly to its appearance. The native population is by far the largest in numbers; the Irish coming next. In 1861 there were 16,924 natives, 6901 Irish, 954 English, and 681 Scotch. They were divided religiously as follows: Episcopalians 5966; Presbyterians 3345; Methodists 3511; Baptists 3177; and Roman Catholics 10,967.

St. John has not escaped the scourge to which our colonial cities have so frequently fallen a prey. It was visited, in 1837, by a very destructive fire, which destroyed one hundred and fifteen houses, and property to the value of one million dollars. It is true that these figures are small when compared with the results of the great fires

which have desolated Montreal and Quebec, but it must be borne in mind that in 1837 the total number of houses in St. John did not probably exceed nine hundred.

Ship-building and manufacturing are carried on at St. John extensively, and altogether it is quite an enterprising and prosperous city.

With the increased facilities for communication afforded by the line of steamers connecting with the Grand Trunk Railway at Portland, the commercial relations between Canada and St. John are becoming of a more intimate character. Already large orders for flour, butter, &c., have reached us from New Brunswick, which, in previous years, would have been forwarded to New York; and with Confederation accomplished, we may fairly hope to find, in our sister provinces, a market for all our surplus products. The city of St. John, with its capacious harbour, free from ice in the most severe winters, must largely benefit by the intimate commercial intercourse which we believe waits upon the political union of the British North American Provinces.

