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COLONIAL AND INDIAN EXHIBITION.

CANADA.

(From the "Times," August 6, 1886.)

HAD the Dominion kept aloof what a blank there would have been any one can realise who looks at a plan of the Exhibition, and sees how Canada is spread almost all over the building, from the gateways of British Guiana and the West Indies on the one side to the frontiers of Natal and the Cape on the other, reaching south to the confines of New Zealand and stretching away into the North-West Territories of the arcades and the conservatory. Our American Dominion, indeed, occupies quite as much space as our Asiatic Empire, and nearly as much as all the Australian colonies put together. And rightly so, no doubt, for has she not an area of some three million square miles, and can she not look back upon a venerable antiquity of 300 years? had she not cities and cathedrals, legislatures and great battlefields, long before anybody thought of making Botany Bay even a penal settlement? The Canadians have evidently determined that in variety and quantity of exhibits at least they shall not be excelled, and, on the whole, they have succeeded. In more than one department they are not approached. In none of the courts is progress in all directions more striking and more patent; none of them—with, perhaps, the exception of India—have richer resources of a solid and enduring character to show; and, all in all, none of them can glory in more marvellous results of human industry. Let us briefly recall some of the events which have marked Canada's progress to her present proud position in the British Empire. It was in 1497 that the Cabots touched at Newfoundland and Labrador. In 1534 and 1535 Jacques Cartier made his way up the St. Lawrence beyond the sites of Quebec and Montreal, and took possession of the country in the name of France. It was not, however, till 1603 that under the chivalrous Champlain serious colonisation began; and only in 1605 did he make the first settlement at what is now Annapolis Royal in Nova Scotia, and there was sown the first field of wheat ever sown by the hand of white man in Canada. With varying fortunes did France retain possession of Canada and people it with her children, until in 1759 Wolfe won it for England with his life on the heights of