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THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF CANADA.

By J. G. BOURINOT,

Clerk Assistant of the House of Commons of Canada; author of a Paper on
the "Marine and Fisheries of Canada,"* &c.

Not very many years ago it was a common subject of complaint among Canadians that the importance of their country from a national point of view was very far from being appreciated by the people of Great Britain. With the exception of some statesmen and officials, who were forced to study Canadian questions, few persons in the mother-country knew anything of the British North-American Colonies, or seemed anxious to inform themselves as to their progress and resources. When Englishmen were sent out by Downing-street to administer the Government, some of them did not always enter on their duties with any very great degree of pleasure, but appeared too often to consider themselves as in some measure political exiles. Even so distinguished a statesman as Lord Sydenham seemed to feel that his onerous task of reconciling antagonistic political elements, and cementing the foundations of a new constitutional system in a country torn asunder by political factions and national antipathies, was hardly valued as it ought to be by the statesmen and publicists of England. "So though I write to you in high spirits, and recount my *hauts faits*," said this distinguished Governor in a letter to an English friend just before his death, "you need not think that I shall come back bragging of them, or expect to find that they have rendered me half so *marquant* a person, as a good speech in the House of Commons, or a successful breakfast at Greenwich would have done." But this was a mere humorous expression of feeling compared with the bitter utterances of Canadians who, time and again, found their affairs slighted, and themselves considered as a sort of social Pariahs whenever they had occasion to visit the parent state. The reason for such sentiments of outraged pride is obvious enough. Canadians have always felt a warm attachment for their "old home;" and ever anxious for some recognition of their claims to

* See Transactions of Royal Colonial Institute for 1873.