THE CATHOLIC RECORD.

THE CANADIAN CONFEDERATION.

9

WITH CERTAIN CONSIDERATIONS AS TO THE INFLUENCE OF CATHOLICITY ON ITS ORIGIN, GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT.

INTRODUCTORY.

I Canada, as we know, is a federation of British North American colonies, stretching from the Gulf of St. Lawrence in the east, to the Island of Vancouver in the west, and from the northern boundary of the United States, on the south, to the frozen islands of the Arctic Seas. It comprises all that portion of the North American continent between long. 57° and 141° w., the most southerly portion reaching lat. 41° 40'.

In 1867 the union of the Province of Canada (then including the present territories of Ontario and Quebec), New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, was effected by an act of the Imperial Legislature. The north-west territories were added to the Union in 1870, while a year later British Columbia joined hands with the new confederacy. In 1873 Prince Edward Island was also admitted. The physical features of the country are striking and important. The principal mountains are the Rocky and Laurentian ranges, the former separating the North-

mountains are the Rocky and Laurentian possession, in the wealth of her resources weak for the source of any power on the ernthetian linght, the vest reritories from the province of the many power on the earth.
The Galf of St. Lawrence and the Bay of Fundy are arms of sea stretching far in land. Thudon's Bay on the northerating of Salisburg aluded the geographical missoneeption of the Manauis of the Dominion, is a vast indentation of the Aulantic, penetrating so far into the mainland as to give rise to the belie that through its navigable waters may yet be found its navigable waters may yet be found its navigable waters may yet be found its navigable waters may yet be sourced and most convention of inexit, the order of the St. Lawrence of communication of inexit, the area of the unit of the resonance of the St. Lawrence is considerable streams, but its have scaled fort Gary, and is now that as a poor man cannot afford to live in a or fracehram the Severe or the Thames, the Seine or the Rhone, would appear alwith, who induced many enginants to settle in the many and or fracehram the Severe or the Thames, the Seine or the Rhone, would appear laws, though its watersher, thus and the advante. The Stak Katehwean, through its Mexima for the stream is hundred miles from its mouth, we have a river four hundred miles from its mouth, we have a river four hundred miles from its mouth, we have a river four hundred miles from its mouth, we have a river four hundred miles from its woods and widely, leaving the faritie coast are the Fraser, Thompson and Columbia, each draining an extensive the waters of Athabasea. The entire area of the united rivers, in a few materia laws, together with these or the shear or its start in the system of the faritie coast are the Fraser, Thompson and Columbia, each draining an extensive river, includes seven provinces and there miles the start of the sing and the start west of the starts are of the shear in the start west of the advaland the the start are of the water analy th

promoters of the various schemes of im-migration and colonization arose from the ignorance prevailing, as well at home as abroad, of the extent and resources of the British North American colonies. Speaking from like jace in Parliament im 1862, Mr. McGee asks: "Have the limits of population in Lower Canada taken up P." So far from it," he answers, "that I am well satisfied, from all the reports of men of science and men optimized up to the source of the Sas-tinte science taken before the several com-miles of his varge, however, he will and clonked will not be found materially different from the call of the several com-and climate will not be found materially." different from the soil and climate of the still unsettled part of Upper Canada, be-tween Lake Huron and the Ottawa. There are with us two regions to the north and south of the St. Lawrence, which are com-monly called "the St. Maurice country" and the "Eastern Townships;" we have abundant evidence, obtained at great expense to the Province, of the extent and pense to the Province, of the extent and resources of both these regions. Popu-larly the Eastern Townships are tolerably well known; much has been done for them, and much more ought to be done. That, instead of a quarter of a million, they of the continent, the capital of the Prairie Province, and I trust the future " umare capable of sustaining three to four million souls, is generally admitted,-but The summer traveller who hears steam blow off at night at Three Rivers, seldom dreams that he has just passed a great river, which two hundred miles from its outlet, is still a great river; which drains a country larger than all Scotlard, and as capable as Scotland of bearing its three millions of inhabitants." the St. Maurice is a complete *terra ignota*. The summer traveller who hears steam bilicus" of the Dominion. country larger than all Scotlaud, and as capable as Scotland of bearing its three millions of inhabitants."
Of the Ottava country, Mr. Norman, in 1859, reported: "In glancing over the map of this fine country, the mind becomes strongly impressed with what may be its future, with its mineral resources as yet but partially developed, but known to be of great extent and value, unequalled by any country in the world for its luxuriant growth of timber, especially of red and white pine; having its grand river, with tributaries surpassing in volume the largest rivers of Europe, and the advantages of unlimited water po ver which they do not posses, an extent of agricultural country capable, on careful examination, of supporting a population of eight millions of inhabitants."
If the Eastern Townsnips be capable of sustaining a population of three or four mudded to the Northwest, and the St. Maurice district as many more—if the Ottawa Valley in itself have resources sufficient to meet the wants of eight millions, what shall we say, not many more—if the Ottawa Valley in itself have resources sufficient to meet the wants of eight millions, what shall we say, not to speak at all of the territory of Algoma, of the great North-west ? Admitting that the disadvantages of this vast teritory have been too frequently overlooked, and that many, in speaking of its resources, capabilities, and destiny, have drawn too largely on imagination, it must be conceded that the Cauadian Northwest-is destined to receive and sustain an im-mense population, and by reason of the rapid increase of this population, together capabilities, and destiny, nave drawn too largely on imagination, it must be rivers, and start him on a longer trip is destined to receive and sustain an im-mense population, and by reason of the rapid increase of this population, together with its inclculable agricultural wealth and untold mineral resources, to exercise a federacy. In his racy speech at Winnipeg in

September, 1877, Lord Dufferin endeavorseptember, 1877, Lord Dinter in Encouron-ed to remove all doubt and this misconcep-tion as to the great extent of Canada, and in a humorous vein depicted the great lake and fluvial systems of the East, the West, and the North-west. The distinguished nobleman, amongst other things, remarked:

"From its geographical position, and peculiar characteristics Manitoba be regarded as the keystone of that may mighty arch of sister provinces which spans the entire continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific. It was here that Canada, emerging from her woods and forests, first gazed upon her rolling prairies and unexplored North-west, and learned, as by an unexpected revelation, that her historical territories of the Canadas, her eastern seaboards of New Brunswick, Labrador, Nova Scotia, her Laurentian lakes and valleys, cornlands and pastures, though themselves more extensive than half a dozen European kingdoms, were but the vestibules and antechambers to that, till then, un-dreamt-of Dominion, whose illimitable dimensions alike confound the arithmetic of the surveyor, and the verification of the ex-

territory, united under one central gov-ernment, includes seven provinces and one territoral organization. Of the read extent of Canadian territory a great deal of misconception exists, not alone in the minds of foreigners, but even with Can dians themselves. This misconception is not of recent growth. In pre-confederation times, much of the difficulty encountered by the promoters of the varions schemes of im-migration and colonization arose from the British North American colonies. Speaking from his place in Parliament

the West to his woods and wilds, leaving him a wiser if not a better warrior. The population of the settlement now ex-ceeds thirteen thousand. Winnipeg City is beautifnily situated for commercial purposes. It commands a very extensive trade with the United States, via the Red Ever, and with the Great West, via the Red Ever, here the united states for the set of the set trade with the United States, via the Red Ever, and with the Great West, via the Assist before. The united rivers from the city to the lake are capable of floating vessels of the largest tonnage. This settlement, now surrounded by a vast wilderness, and far removed from the

previously provided him with a return ticket for that purpose, he will probably prefer getting home via the Canadian Pacific. Now, in the enumeration, those who are acquainted with the country are aware that for the sake of brevity I have omitted thousands of miles of other lakes and rivers, which water various regions of the Northwest, the Qu'Appelle river, the Belly river, Lake Manitoba, Lake Winnipegoosis, Shoal lake, etc., etc., along whose interminable banks I might have dragged, and finally exter-minated our way-worn guests, but the sketch I have given is more than sufficient for my purpose, and when it is further remembered that the most of these streams flow for their entire length through alluvial plains of the richest can be raised without manure, or any sensible diminution in its vided and through alluvial plains of the richest description, where year after year wheat can be raised without manure, or any sensible diminution in its yield, and where the soil everywhere presents the appearance of a highly cultivated sub-tural riches of the territories I have referred to, and the capabilities they possess of affording happy and prosperous homes to millions of the human race."
The hope expressed in terms so felicitous accords with the views of all who have given the Northwest, study and attention. The existence there of lands especially on the American border, does not detract from the value of the immense sketches of surpassingly fertile country, and should not be set up as a barrier against immigration.
From an interesting paper published in

domning techambers to transformed techambers to the set of the state o now enjoyed by Ontario and Quebec; but the Colonial Secretary paid no attention to their representations or entreaties. Now, like sensible men, resolving to help themselves, they have taken the manage-ment of their own affairs into their own hands, and in future will probably decline to be governed by proxy,-- by strangers whose interests are inimical to the welfare of the country. There are two routes from Pembina, on the accent by to the gold mines or de-the configs of the Rod River through the

the confines of the Red River, through the Saskatehewan, to British Columbia and the Pacific,—the northern and the south-The latter is the shortest, but the ern. most dangerous, as the country on either sides is infested by Sioux and Blackfeet Indians,—gentlemen who seldom fail to scalp their "white brother," the emigrant sealp their " white brother," the emigrant or traveller, unless he can prove to their satisfaction that he is a "King George's man"—that is, a British subject. The English Government granted them some favors in the time of George IIL, which they still remember with gratitude. Americans, in consequence of the numer-our border depredations, seldom give these lawless fellows any quarter, nor do they have never been known to injure a "King George's man" who could produze his "credentials." Were we to proceed to British

the angles of the fortifications of all the forts, and the walls are pierced so as to facilitate the use of the riffe, if attacked by the Indians. Proceeding over the Touchwood Hills, the next depot is Fort Carlton. The scenery along the route is agreeably diversified. The countless lakes, income course blue and wild animele are rivers, groves, birds, and wild animals, are sources of never-failing interest. The undulations of the country are exceedingly agreeable to the eye, without being incon-venient to the traveller. Proceeding by the Redberry Lake, the next station worthy of note is Fort Pitt, which is beautifully situated on the north branch of the Saskatchewan. The next station of impor-tance after leaving Fort Pitt is Fort Edmonton,—the pride of the Sasketchewan. It is situated close to an immense forest, on the confines of one of the most magni-facent plains in America, where the prairie and forest literally kiss each other. It possesses hundreds of sights well adapted for mills and factories, whilst its coal-beds rival those of Brizil or Nova Scotia. This

rival those of Brizil or Nova Scoha. This useful mineral frequently protrudes along the banks of rivers and elsewhere in seams more than eight feet in thickness. Tra-vellers cook their provisions with it, and the Hudson Bay officials use no other fuel. In the Red River country, except along the banks of the rivers, the tall prairie grass is also monarch of the tradess their solar country. grass is sole monarch of the treeless plains. but in the Sasketchewan the districts be but in the Sasketchewan the districts be-tween the rivers are frequently adorned with groves of poplar, beech, fir, and white oak. It is worthy of remark, that wheresoever there are groves there are springs of living water, and vice versa. There are many salt lakes in these im-mono regions of a construction that There are many soft takes in these lim-mense regions; and as a rule their shores are totally devoid of trees and shrubs. Prairie chickens, swans, sandhill cranes, geese, ducks, and pigeons abound on the Sasketchewan. The country is well stocked with elks, moose, deer, and caribou. Buf-fale roam in countless thousands over the alo roam in countless thousands over the plains, and are still, as in days gone by, the hope and dependence of the red man; so that there is no searcity of game. Wild fruits are also very abundant. Leaving Fort Edmonton, we should pro-

could accend by it to the gold mines of de-scend to the Fraser. Proceeding along the banks of the river, or across the coun-try, to the town of Yale, we could descend thence by steamer to the Pacific Ocean via New Westminster; distance from Jas-

per House 700 miles. We havd now traversed the great Sas katchewan and the "land of gold." We stand on the genial shores of the Pacific

so little inconvenience. People can travel, with very little trouble, through any part

with very little trouble, through any part of the country from Pembina or Fort Garry to Jasper House,—a distance of more than 1,300 miles The Intercolonial Railway is the magi-cal wand which is destined to people the Great North-West. Until the iron bands of civilization are extended across the continent to Red River and the Saskat-chewan the latter region will remain a sti chewan, the latter region will remain as it

[FRIDAY, MARCH 12.]

BETTER THOUGHTS.

A poor man's prayer may be more valuable than a rich man's gold.—St. Liq-

To love God and to die, this is the end of man; or read it in the light of heaven, to love God and to dwell in God for ever, this is our being and our bliss .- Cardin Manning.

Scientific truth cannot contradict religous truth, but scientific error can; and the path of science ever lies, through error, more or less partial to truth.—Aubrey de Vere.

He watches for Christ who is awake, alive, quick-sighted, zealous in seeking and honoring him; who would not be sur-prised, would not be overwhelmed, if he found that he was coming at once.—Dr. Newman.

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"O My Eustochium, my daughter and my sister-for my age and my charity allow me to give you these names-if by birth you are the first among Roman virgins, strive all the more to accomplish your work to the end, and do not lose, through folly of a half sacrifice, present and future joys."—St. Jerome to Eusto-

Jesus Christ yesterday, and to-day, and Jesus Christ Vesterday, and to-day, and the same forever! These words of the Apostle express at once the noblest and the most delightful occupation of our lives. To think, to speak, to write, per-petually of the grandeur of Jesus- what joy on earth is like it, when we think of what we owe Him and of the relation we stand to Him 2. To know God and to stand to Him ? To know God and t understaud His ways is the great end of life, and to walk in his presence is all sanctity. We are God's own creatures, and to is our own God. All else will fail us, God never will. The death of Jesus is the life of every one of us. We live because He died.—Faber.

A marquis who was admitted to an audience with the late Pontiff Pius IX., com-plained of the great corruption of society, and seemed to think there was no way of correcting it. "Pardon," exclamed Pius IX.,"I know

an excellent remedy for this great evil." "What is it, Holy Father ?"

"It is this; that in the application of the remedy each one should begin by re-forming himself."

forming himself." Any one who reforms his own con-duct does a great deal towards reforming

WINGED WORDS.

Oh the anguish of that thought that Oh t the anguish of that thought that we can never atone to our dead for the stinted affection we gave them—for the light answers we returned to their plaints, or their pleading—for the little reverence we showed to that sacred human soul that lived so close to us, and was the divinest thing God had given us to know. . When our indignation is borne in sub-missive silence, we are apt to feel twings of doubt afterwards as to our own gen-erosity if not justice; how much more when the object of our anger has gone into everlasting silence, and we have seen his face for the last time in the meekness of death.

of death. When death, the great Reconciler, has come, it is never our tenderness that we repent of, but our severity. In old days there were angels who came and took men by the band, and led them away from the city of destruction. We see no white-winged angels now. But yet men are led away from threatening destruction. A hand is put into theirs, and leads them forth gently towards a calm and bright land, so that they look no more backward; and the hand may be a little

As our thoughts follow close in the

passage across it. For the last eighty miles of his voyage, however, he will be consoled by saling through a succession of land-locked channels, the beauty of whose seenery, while it resembles, certainly excell the far-famed Thousand Islands of the St. Lawrence. From this lacustrian paradise of sylvan beauty we are able at once to the mining mission of the senery whose existence in the very heart of transfer our friend to the Winnipeg, a river whose existence in the very heart of and varied are its rocky banks, its tufted islands, so broad, so deep, so fervid is the volume of its waters, the extent of their volume of their rapids. At last let us
construction of their rapids. At last let us Numerscia, calling at intermediate places. Minnescia, calling at intermediate places. This is the mail and emigrant route, and power of their rapids. At last let us suppose we have landed our traveller at the town of Winnipeg, the half-way house of the avertiment the gravital of the Pravies of the section of their rapids. goods from Canada and elsewhere. Com-munication is occasionally held with Fort Garry by way of Fort William, on Lake Superior; but the obstacles to be overcome by the traveller in this route are very

great. Government organs inform us that ere long portages will be established where necessary, and good, serviceable waggon-roads constructed where now but very imperfect trails exist. The best route at present from Canada to Red River is via Goderich, Saginaw, Milwaukee, St. Pauls, Georgetown, and Pembina. The journey will occupy from three to five weeks. The banks of the Assineboine and Red River are clothed with timber of gigantic pro-portions; and, in many cases, the plains between the rivers are decked with groves of pine, poplar, and a thick growth of under-wood. Farming in the Red River settlement is subject to many disadvantages. Farmers in that loc dity have many difficulties to contend with, --difficulties which should be duly considered by every would-be emi-grant. The farmers of all other countries and colonies in the world are certain of a good market for their surplus produce; but at Red River such is not the case, nor will it be so in the Saskatchewan until a railway intersects the country. Being situated in the centre of this vast con-tinent, more than a thousand miles from the sea, and no good markets, foreign or domestic, within easy reach,—the settler can command no reasonable price for his produce, whilst he has to pay for imported goods at an exorbitant rate. Tea, coffee, goods at an exorbitant rate. Tea, coffee, sugar, spices, and all sorts of foreign goods, are extremely dear—far dearer than in any other English colony, whilst native produce is much cheaper. There is, there-fore, a general dearth of many of the luxuries of life. Farmers are of necessity compelled to regulate their farming opera-tions for the apount of load or home comhim.

is,--the richest, the strangest, and the wildest country in the world; and those who tear themselves away from home and country and settle there, may be said to spend their days in a "living tomb." As

The scenery in this vicinity is amongst the most beautiful in America. It is a happy junction of the beautiful, romantic, and sublime. The great moun-Let the railroad be built, and thousands romantic, and sublime. The great moun-tain ranges rise tier over tier, one behind the other, the heavens appearing to repose on the more remote, whilst soft, silvery of cities will deck their lonely streams and the spires of myraids of churches will more remote, whilst soft, silvery ads occasionally float between the isolbe reflected in the clear blue waters of the Assinneboine, Saskatchewan, Athabasca, Similtemeen. The evening bells in many Towards the north, Mount Lefroy rises fowards the north, Mount Lefroy rises high above its fellows. On the south side, Mount Ball rises majestically from the plain, dressed in all the gorgeous draperies of nature; while sight in front Mount Vouv hideits white summits in the clouds. ted summits of those nearest to the eye. of nature; while right in front Mount Vaux hides its white summits in the clouds. It frequently rains amongst these "Columbian Alps." Myriads of streams, rushing down the sides of the mountains, water the valleys and wind through the Uties the valleys and wind through the the buffalo. Instead of the direful "war-hoop," the heavenly strains of the organ and piano will resound on the breeze; the plough and the sickle will succeed the the steam-engine will succeed the lowing of the buffalo. Instead of the direful "war-hoop," the heavenly strains of the organ and piano will resound on the breeze; the plough and the sickle will succeed the the steam of the distant lakes. the plough and the sickle will succeed the tomahawk and scalping-knife; the "hatchet of war" shall, we trust, be buried forever, and the "pipe of peace" smoked from age to age by the English-speaking race. The superabundant population of the British Isles will then seek homes in fruitful prairies and glorious valleys of the North-west, on which bountful nature showered ins towards some of the distant e "enormous things of life." The great prairie stretching out, as far as the eye con reach, towards the sunrising, and beautiful valleys through which the trail winds its way, are decked with an emerald verdure. Sylvan lakes, studded with numerous islands covered with trees to the water edge, add to the enchanting beauty of the scene. These lakes teem with fish; birds of every form and size, with plumage of many varieties, float in flocks over their placid surfaces, repose in sullen grandeur along the shores, or ter amongst the broad branches of the trees; so that one might easily imagine himself to be in some beautiful park of Nature's own planting, where every variety of the animal and vegetable kingloms would be represented. Such doubi-ess was that Garden of Eden, of which we tinue to invite the young men and young women of Europe to settle in our midst, have heard so much and know so little. where old father Adam first greeted hi numerous subjects, and dispensed titles with no niggard hand. These primeval panoramseldom fail to remind the weary emigrant or lonely traveller of other and dearer enes far away in Eastern clin of early youth and childhood, which, in all probability, he shall never see again. Full many a time does he shed a tear over the memory of the past, as the fond associations of other days arise in fancy before

Were we to select the northern route. That was a true mother who said: I am a missionary in my nursery, six pairs of eyes are watching me, and six little heads are acquiring ideas from me, and six hearts the effects of my actions.

In Ireland there are 5 Archbishops, 26 Bishops, 3,186 priests, and upwards of 4,000,000 adherents.

wake of the dawn, we are impressed with the broad sameness of the human lot, which never alters in the main headings of its history-hunger and labor, seedof its history—hunger and labo time and harvest, love and death. in the States, let the railroad lead and then colonization and civilization will follow.

In the man whose childhood has known caresses, there is a fibre of memory that can be touched to gentle issues. Our daily familiar life is but a hiding of

ourselves from each other, behind a screet of trivial words and deeds, and the it with us at the same hearth are often the farthest off from the deep human soul within us; full of unspoken evil and untainted good. We are, all of us, made more graceful

by the inward presence of what we believe to be a generous purpose; our actions move to a hidden music.

It is the way with half the truth amidst which we live, that it only haunts us and makes dull pulsations which are never horn into so

Iteration, like friction, is likely to generate heat into sound.

THE "LIBERAL" MAN. - The greatest of shams is the man who believes implicitly in himself. You have seen him and heard him talk, reader. "I discard all prejudice; to me all creeds are all alike." "How alike ?' you take it upon yourself to say. prairies and glorious that at the showered west, on which bountiful nature showered so many blessings. The men of Europe, "seeking the transcendent sweets of domestic life" in our midst, will strengthen our union and increase our influence. When this railroad is completed, the deserts When this railroad is completed, the deserts be does not believe in anything nor care he does not believe in anything nor care about anything connected with God or eternity, but is just as bigoted in favor ease, and comfort, over those vast plains, where now a few thousand savages drag of his indifference as he imagines other people to be in favor of their beliefs. Tell him that liberalism in theory is illogical, inconsistent, and hypocritical, and he will reply that you are gone too far out a miserable existence. In the mean-time, let the Canadian Government conin bigotry to be talked to. Prove your assertion, as you easily can, and he never speak to vou again. Yet all the time he honestly believes that it is broad-minded to believe in nothing, and narrowminded to have God for teacher.

> As an evidence of sectarian intolerance we submit the following well-substanti-ated facts. The English Universities of Oxford and Cambridge were found by Catholics, and while under their control, were open to all denominations; but when through unjust violence they fell into the but when hands of Protestants. Catholics were rigidly excluded from them, and denied th advan tages their own labors had created. History s full of similar contrasts. Yet how often o we not hear the senseless charge of "exclusiveness" brought against us? We make the sacrifices—others enjoy the benefits, and pelt us with filth for putting the means in their hands! Is this gratitude? -Catholic Columbian.

and share the divine blessings of liberty, equality, and religion,-the inestimable equality, and religion,—the inestimable treasures of learning and science which we enjoy. Holding out the hand of fellowship to every race and nation,—and es-pecially to the oppressed people of Europe, —let us cordially invite them to share with us the prairie and the forest of the fore Word allows and the forest of the far West, the vardant valleys, healthy climate, and clear, bright skies of "this far West, the Canada of ours. TO BE CONTINUED.

eing moulded for good or evil, from