

made. In that portion of the work dealing with the Ottawa Valley the lecturer closes with these prophetic words :—" No one can look upon " the geographical position of the Ottawa without becoming convinced " that unless there be some positive disqualification it is a district which " ought not and cannot much longer remain a wilderness. Those who " have had such glimpses of it, as a trip up some of its beautiful tributaries " afford, can certify that when opened it will be second to no other " part of Canada in the healthy character of its climate—the fertility of " its innumerable and well watered valleys—the transparent purity of its " trout filled lakes and gravelly brooks ; or in the magnificent pan- " orama which is presented by mountain, flood, and plain—decked out " with evergreen and hardwood furring the sloping banks of her golden " lakes, and affording under the influence of the autumnal frost one of " the most gorgeous spectacles under the sun. Nor can the day be far " distant when those valleys will be filled with their teeming thousands " and the sheep and cattle on a thousand hills shall everywhere indicate " peace and progress—the happy homes of a people whose mission it is " to wage war only upon the rugged soil and the gloomy forest, to cause " the now silent valleys to shout and sing, and to make the " wilderness blossom like the rose." Hear also a prediction from another great authority, Walter Shanly : "The Ottawa country," he says, "abounds in iron ore of the richest description. Its forests of pine are inexhaustible. Its water power, as already stated, not only unlimited in capacity but available to its full extent at numberless stages upon the route. By the opening of the projected navigation this great manufacturing agent would be brought into comparative proximity to the granaries of Lake Michigan, and would immediately be turned to account in preparing the cereals of the west for the markets of the east. With such a combination of advantages in possession or in prospect, it is surely not difficult of belief that the valley of the Ottawa is destined to be not only the workshop of Canada, but one of the chief manufacturing districts of America." What I would say in conclusion is this : If the Government and Parliament of Canada find themselves unable, at present, from whatever cause, to take up the whole scheme, I would be content for one, if they were willing to deepen and improve the water-way and enlarge the canals, if need be, between Montreal and Ottawa city, to such an extent, as to warrant the passage of ocean going vessels from the Atlantic to our own harbour. To put it more concisely, I want Ottawa made an ocean port, and so become the present head