

THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

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IN the order of Divine Providence, the New World was long hidden from the Old. But in the fulness of time, when the press was getting ready for its mission, and a language was becoming perfected for the Anglo-Saxon race, when religion was about to escape from the thralldom of "the Church," and the toiling and oppressed millions of the Old World needed an asylum from tyranny, and a country where they might construct a government and frame laws in harmony with the inalienable rights of man, God raised up a man and girt him for his special work of discovering the Western World. Yet, when in pursuance of his design to turn his day-dreams into reality, his mighty argument into practical realization, Columbus cut the cable which bound navigation to the shores of the Old World, and resolutely pushed his way across the Atlantic, or even when the hemisphere lay before him, how little did he think of

"The vast Republics that might grow,
The Federations and Powers,"

upon this continent. The ends of Providence are infinitely wider and grander than those embraced by the most enlightened human minds. "Our little systems" are "but broken lights" of God. Four centuries have not since then passed away, yet the history of the time has been thrilling and eventful. One of the greatest powers of the world has here grown up, and by its side is our young nationality, of very recent origin and settlement, promising to occupy no inconsiderable place in future history.

According to an old map of the English Empire in North America, published in 1755, Canada, then under French rule, was quite within the limits of the present Province of Quebec. Ontario was at that time called Northern Iroquois, and inhabited by Indians. Here and there, from the Ottawa to the Mississippi, were a few French forts and settlements. Now, what a country we have, extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific! But how long and cheerless was the period of struggle with the Indians,