

lifted the Cross, and in the other bore the bag of gain to the farthest line of known geography and beyond. In this magnificent exhibit of character the women of Old France vied with the men, and her womanhood with her manhood shone resplendent, like equal and companion orbs, full sphered. The men and women who settled New France were of the noblest of the human species. They grasped the significance of Empire, and while Voltaire sneered, they with sublime ambition essayed to capture a hemisphere for Christ and France. From that great rock at Quebec they saw the measureless capabilities of this Continent; saw it as a magnificent unit, which, if kept whole, would in future years outweigh in power and value the manifold partitions of all Europe. While the Dutch at Albany were only petty traders, the Spaniards of the Gulf religious buccaneers, and the Puritans in Massachusetts seeking protection of their conscience in isolation from oppression, they said: "We will lay foundations for a power that shall rule from ocean to ocean and from gulf to gulf, and own all." They saw that the Spanish had no lasting power in them; that they held only the southern edges of the Continent, and that their fingers were slipping and would soon lose hold. The English, bunched at a few spots on the Atlantic seaboard, heterogeneous and naturally jealous, pent eastward by the Alleghany range, they would at the proper time push into the sea. They filled all the East with Indian alliances. La Salle went southward to the Southern Gulf. The Verendrye, father and sons, pushed westward along what now is the line of the Canadian Pacific to the Rocky Mountains. When-