

was no sound of human labor to be heard in this vast solitude, but now the perfect hush is broken in all directions by the blows of the lumberman's axe and the buzz of his saw.

Succeeding the forest is the prairie, a great expanse of level and rolling land, stretching fifteen hundred miles away to the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. Last of all comes a stretch of six hundred miles of mountains and plateaus, which make up the greater part of British Columbia.

The most important cities of Canada are on the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River. They are nearly all situated in the large V-like peninsula which Canada thrusts southward into the United States.

Labrador and that part of the Northwest Territory which lies north of Peace River are cold and dreary regions with scanty vegetation. Fur-bearing animals abound; and the single production is furs, which are collected by the trappers with great toil and patience.

CHAPTER II.

THE FISHERMAN'S LIFE.

Newfoundland may be called the province of the fisherman; because the census showed some years ago that fully one-half of the population was engaged in catching fish, and in salting or otherwise preparing them for the market. The fisheries form a chief source of wealth to