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CANADA.

LET us begin, then, with the oldest important British Colony, which is Canada. But Canada is a term which conveys a very loose meaning. Except Newfoundland, the oldest part of Canada is the oldest British Colony; but all of Canada does not deserve this appellation at all, some of it being of comparatively recent existence in its present form.

The
definition
of
Canada.

THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

Modern Canada is a federation of separate provinces unified under the above title. These separate provinces were in some cases separate colonies; but they all belong, geographically speaking, to one group. So it was they became welded together into one great integer, corresponding to the geographical grouping laid down by Nature.

A Feder-
ation.

Just as some landscape gardener lays out a plot of ground into flower and vegetable gardens, orchards, rockeries, and wildernesses, set out according to the suitabilities of aspect, position, and other natural conditions; so has Nature laid our earth into irregular partitions by imposing her own fences, in the shape of mountains, seas and deserts. To comply with these natural conditions is the true function of nations, or of those who direct their destinies.

The
groupings
of
Nature.

Just as in the case of old Europe, every country, or nearly every country, had a nucleus to which the surrounding districts gradually became attracted until the result coincided with the boundaries Nature had intended; so we shall find the modern Dominion of Canada had a nucleus to which the various component parts ultimately gravitated, until they reached their present form.

A nucleus
to seek.