

THE BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN PROVINCES.

THERE are two signs under which the Statesman may estimate the value and importance of the British North American Colonies. The one is positive, the other relative. The positive, or absolute value, consists in the shipping they employ, the seamen they form, the manufactures they consume, the supplies of which they are the home sources for the British market and our West India Colonies, and the mastings and spars which they ensure for our navy in the day of need. The sign under which the relative importance of the northern provinces may be considered, indicates the effect of placing all these elements of statistical greatness in the opposite scale of the beam, by which the statesman should carefully weigh the effects of measures which, though treated as fiscal or finance questions, reach, in fact, into matters of the very highest order of policy.