

which
nd by
Rail-
con-
and
into
larger
plorers
sturies
erness.
l con-
ns of
alts of
h has
uana,
lency,
lonial
parlia-
the
great
re the
assem-

in the
ess of
s been
mat of
at the
or the
he ac-
inferior
g rich
geo-
merica,"
Scotch-
of the
ada, in
part
ose to
over-
by the
wealth
ch in-
ld her
indus-
ffer to
rea of
any
neigh-

a was
olonisa-
ng the

seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, a few thousand Frenchmen struggled to make homes on the banks of the St. Lawrence, and succeeded in founding Quebec and Montreal. These Frenchmen had to encounter innumerable difficulties; all the privations of a life in a new country, the neglect and indifference of their rulers, all the miseries arising from frequent wars with the Indians and the New England colonists. Their very system of government was repressive of all individual energy as well as concerted public action. It was a happy day for the French Canadians when they became subjects of a British sovereign, and were allowed to participate in all the advantages of a liberal system of government. At the time of the conquest of Canada, the total population of the present province of Quebec did not exceed 70,000 souls. It was not until the war of American Independence that Canada received a large accession of inhabitants, historically known as the United Empire Loyalists, probably some 40,000 persons in all, who founded the provinces of New Brunswick and Upper Canada. During the first decades of this century, the immigration into the provinces was but small, though sufficient, with the natural increase, to bring the total population by the year 1840, when the union took place, up to probably 1,250,000 persons, of whom some 900,000 were living in the two Canadas. The years that followed the establishment of responsible government in British North America were remarkable for the rapid increase of population and wealth throughout the provinces, especially in Upper Canada, with its mild climate, its fertile territory, and its energetic, industrious inhabitants. The Irish famine, combined with a greater interest in Europe in the development

of Canada, brought into the country a large number of immigrants during the first ten years following the union: so that by 1851, Upper Canada alone had a population of 1,000,000 souls; Lower Canada, 900,000; and all British North America, upwards of 2,500,000. For the last thirty years the population has not increased in the same ratio as in the decade just mentioned. Yet despite the many advantages offered to immigrants by the United States, the united provinces, now known as the Dominion of Canada, were able in 1881, when the last census was taken, to show a total population of nearly 4,500,000, of whom about 2,000,000 live in Ontario, and 1,500,000 in Quebec. In 1790, the total population of the United States was estimated at about 4,000,000, and in 1880 at over 50,000,000, having increased twelve and a half times in ninety years. Now in 1790 all the provinces of British North America had a population of probably 250,000, who had increased to 4,500,000 in 1881, or eighteen times in less than a century. This population would undoubtedly have been very much greater by this time, had the provinces been able years ago to establish a large manufacturing industry, or had they possessed the North-west Territory, whose value as a field for immigration has only very recently been discovered. Further on, we shall consider the splendid opportunity that the North-west Territory now offers to the Dominion to compete with the United States on something like fair terms for the emigration from Europe; but as it is, the population of Canada is greater than that of Norway, and equal to that of Sweden—neither of which countries has resources capable of sustaining the large population which Canada must have ere long.