

ENGLAND.

This royal throne of kings, this scepter'd isle,
This earth of majesty, this seat of Mars,
This other Eden, demi-paradise,
This fortress built by Nature for herself
Against infection and the hand of war,
This happy breed of men, this little world,
This precious stone set in the silver sea,
Which serves it in the office of a wall
Or as a moat defensive to a house,
Against the envy of less happier lands,
This blessed plot, this earth, this realm, this England.

—Shakespeare, *King Richard II*, Act II, Sc. 1.

TOPIC II.

THE DOMINION AND THE PROVINCES.

1. Federal System of Government.

Our system of government is what is known as a confederation, and in this respect it resembles that of the United States and Australia and differs from that of Great Britain and France. The settled part of Canada is divided into nine provinces, each having a government of its own.