

CHAPTER I.

EXTENT AND RESOURCES OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

The vast extent of the British possessions in North America is scarcely known even to its inhabitants; and there are few of our fellow countrymen on the other side of the Atlantic, who are aware that British America includes a larger area than that under the government of the United States. A great part indeed is at present uncultivated and unproductive, except to the hunter and the courier de bois. The territories of the Hudson's Bay Company contain, no doubt, the locality of many a future province. Vancouver's, and other Islands in the Pacific, besides British Oregon, may hereafter afford homes to a numerous population, and give rise to new and extensive branches of commerce; but, without indulging in these anticipations, we shall find an ample field for our present inquiries, in the somewhat better known provinces of Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island. Canada, indeed, is too extensive, and requires too large a grasp to be made the subject of our present limited volume; and each of the other provinces might well deserve a work of its own. New Brunswick is therefore our principal object, and the chapters devoted to the other two lower colonies must be considered as a very brief sketch of their present state.

These five Provinces, which should be united under one general Government, either by a Federal or Legislative Union, as may be found best suited to the wants and wishes of their inhabitants, may, at no very distant day, become the seat of a great and powerful Empire. The following is a brief summary of the entire superficial contents of this widely extended territory, so far as it has been hitherto divided into distinct provinces:—

	Acres.	Totals.
Canada East,	128,659,680	
" West,	31,745,539	
		160,405,219
New Brunswick,		20,000,000
Nova Scotia proper, and	11,534,196	
Cape Breton,	2,000,000	
		13,534,196
Newfoundland,		23,040,000
Prince Edward Island,		1,360,000
Total area of Br. North American Provinces, exclusive of the Hud- son's Bay territory and Labrador, }		218,339,415
Aggregate population in 1830,		1,375,000