

They were as much his personal possession as the legacy left him by parents, or the accumulations which his own efforts had enabled him to lay by. Nay, the property possessed in the geographical and resourceful advantages of Canada was even a more sacred possession than that of money either inherited or earned. It was a trust with which Providence, in its divine foresight, had endowed every inhabitant of Canada, not only for himself but for his children's children—a trust for which his responsibility was just as clear as for any other blessing for the use of which he had to give an account. The Parable of the talents left by the Master is as applicable to the possession of national advantages unimproved, as for personal blessings which every night and morning we invoke a divine guidance to use properly and beneficially. It is well to consider whether, up to this period, there has been the fullest and largest use made of the vast riches with which this Canada of ours is endowed. On the contrary, may we not consider whether, up to this time, the smallest development, in proportion to our riches, has not been achieved. It is true that plans of the most comprehensive character for this development have been made, in public expenditure and the construction of means of communication. It may well be a subject of congratulation, that the foundations of a great future have been laid deep and broad; and the highest praise should be awarded to the statesmanship, energy, and patriotism, that had opened up vast stretches of most productive territory to settlement, and great regions of mineral lands to the possibility of development. But now that these facilities are afforded, are the existing conditions favorable to the progress which should follow their creation? Was the North-west likely to settle up as rapidly as it would if the emigration now pouring into the United States could be diverted in that direction under the influence of Commercial Union. Was it likely that the mineral regions rendered accessible on the shores of Lake Superior would be developed as fully, as if a near by market were afforded for these products. Was it not a fact that, in proportion to the productive forces of one-half of the continent, and in comparison with the growth and progress of the great nation on the south of Canada, the question may well be asked, has the most been made, up to this period, of the advantages with which a divine Providence has endowed the Dominion? Recalling the relative progress made in the last one