

now often called the "*Maritime Provinces of Canada*" have upwards of three-quarters of a million of inhabitants. Long before it was proposed for them to join Canada, each of these Provinces had a government as well as a history of its own. The same might be said of Newfoundland, which is the oldest of all the British American Provinces and which has now about 150,000 people. If Newfoundland were to be united to Canada, which has not yet been done, then the Canadian Maritime Provinces would have about one-quarter of the population of all British America. These Provinces are rich in every thing that is required for the support and happiness of man. Their people excel in agriculture, ship building, commerce and mining; and their fisheries are the most valuable in the world. From the earliest days of their settlement they have been exposed to the same trials, hardships, and dangers as the other European colonists in North America. It is easy, therefore, to see that the people of old Canada would be very well pleased to be united with those of the maritime Provinces under one Government.

243. To the north and west of Canada lies the immense region called "*The North West Territories.*" They contain a great inland Sea—*Hudson's Bay*—and many great lakes and rivers; and they reach westward to the Rocky Mountains, and northward to the Arctic Ocean. All these regions were formerly under the control of "*The Hudson Bay Company.*" As this Company traded in furs, the only people from Europe that they cared to have in the territories were their own agents to attend to traffic with the Indians. This Company established many trading posts for that purpose, but did not found settlements like those in the English and French Provinces. Once, in the year 1812, the Company sold to Lord Selkirk a tract of land near Lake Winnipeg, and afterwards a settlement, named "*The Red River settlement*" was formed in a fertile valley through which the Red River runs, northward to that lake. Later, in the year 1869, the