

PRELIMINARY REPORTS.

EXTENT, RESOURCES, AND PROGRESS

OF

CANADA.

AREA OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

The possessions of Great Britain in North America have been stated (on the authority of Allison the historian) to contain 4,109,630 square geographical miles of land, or 2,630,163,200 acres, (equal to about one-ninth part of the entire land-surface of the globe); the water-surface being about 1,340,000 square geographical miles. Much less of British North America is doomed to "everlasting sterility" than has been sometimes alleged. There is now sufficient ground for the belief that as the land is cleared, the rigors of climate abate; and there is no satisfactory reason for doubting that changes may be experienced, in at least a large portion of the country to which reference is here made, similar to those which are recorded as having taken place on the banks of the Rhine.

The portions of British North America occupied by colonies, as stated in the British Board of Trade returns, are:—

Canada	331,280 sq. miles.	Newfoundland.....	40,200 sq. miles.
Nova Scotia.....	18,670 "	British Columbia.....	200,000 "
New Brunswick.....	27,037 "	Vancouver's Island....	13,000 "
Prince Edward Island..	2,173 "		

EXTENT AND POPULATION OF CANADA.

Extent.—The actual area of Canada is now understood to be more nearly 400,000 square miles, than the figures given in the preceding tabular arrangement (331,280 square miles.) According to a statement emanating from the Provincial Government, there had been 39,331,791 acres disposed of up to the close of the year 1863,—the quantity of land still remaining under the control of the Crown being 214,282,817 acres.

Population.—The subjoined figures show how rapidly the population of Canada has increased during the past twenty-five years:—

1841.....	1,155,789				
1851.....	1,842,265	increase	59½	per cent.	
1861.....	2,507,657	"	36	"	
1865..... (estimated),	2,881,900	"	15	"	in four years.