

Great Britain will enter upon the untrodden paths of a new century."

To fit Canada into the scheme of colonial history that has been outlined, it is first necessary to point out that Canada does not figure at all in British colonial history till after 1760, which is well toward the close of the Mercantile period. The influx of United Empire Loyalists after the American Revolution naturally hastened the arrival of that period which is characterized by the granting of self-government, for it is obvious that the presence in Canada of this new and powerful element rendered necessary some modification of the Quebec Act. It almost goes without saying that the influence of the Crown upon the colony was by no means weakened by the special concession of a liberal constitution soon after their arrival, since it was personal adherence to the British Crown that sent them into the country.

While it is true that the recognition of American independence was the virtual death of the Mercantile System, its ghost still survived to distract politicians up to the final repeal of the Navigation Laws in 1849. But long before that date, notably in 1825, the direction of colonial affairs by the thoughtful Huskisson had resulted in the practical substitution of the theory of reciprocity for the time-worn doctrine of monopoly. And yet, while Huskisson was far in advance of his colleagues in the matter of colonial administration, it is evident that he hardly dared to hope that Canada could be indefinitely retained to the Crown. Christie, in his *History of Lower Canada*, reproduces a speech delivered by Huskisson in 1828 in which this passage occurs: "* * * * Whether Canada is to remain forever dependent upon England or to become an independent State * * * it is still the duty and interest of this country to imbue it with English feeling and benefit it with English laws and English institutions." This then, generally speaking, is the policy respecting Crown colonies that prevailed at the accession of Queen Victoria. All the later periods of colonial development are coeval with her era.

Those of us who have lived to cross the threshold of a new century will appreciate the wonderful development of colonial policy during Victoria's reign by comparing with the perfectly regulated system of responsible