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THE

ENGLISHMAN IN CANADA.

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CHAPTER I.

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Stimulated by the successful explorations and discoveries of the renowned and intrepid Stanley in equatorial Africa, and the fame he has secured by throwing so much light upon that dark continent; and being by nature a life-long philanthropist, in intention if not in actual deeds; and further, having heard of the enviable and chivalrous character of that famous Scotchman, Donald Quickset, and his noble steed, Rosinante, (named in memory of his pious Aunt Rossin), I resolved to rouse my dormant faculties, and snatch the wreath of fame from some of the hidden mysteries of the universe, and on my brow wear the laurels of a discoverer, like Galileo and Robinson Crusoe, and so hand down my name to posterity, (tho' yet a bachelor,) as a leading benefactor of the human race. The spirit of discovery and adventure had lain dormant in my breast so long, not because it did not often assert its presence and struggle to soar forth to find the hidden and the marvellous where alone the hidden and the marvellous are to be found, but because I could not decide upon the precise field wherein to exercise my brilliant talents, until spurred into action by the fame of the gentlemen already mentioned.

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While thus at a loss to know in what way I could best serve my fellow-beings, I was called to attend a general meeting of the Society of which I have the distinguished honour to be a member, viz: the "Society for the Promotion of Cosmopolitan Ideas," and at that meeting fit and proper persons were selected to visit the Colonial dependencies of Great Britain and other countries, for the purpose of procuring such general information as might be of interest and benefit to the public. After mature deliberation the choice fell upon me to make a place called "Canada"—of which we had casually heard a few times before—the field of my obser-